Daily Report

Soviet Union

FBIS-SOV-91-190
Tuesday
1 October 1991

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Soviet Union

FBIS-SOV-91-190 *1 October 1991*

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NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

NOTICE TO READERS: The United States Government recognizes the independence of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

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Arms Control & Disarmament

Further Reaction to U.S. Disarmament Initiative

Gorbachev Urges Cautious Response

LD3009185291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1822 GMT 30 Sep 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow, 30 Sep (TASS)—"The USSR should not respond urgently to the United States' initiative. Haste in these matters by the USSR and its president will be too ill-considered a step toward the important and major initiative which we regard the United States proposal to be." This is what USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev told journalists after his meeting in the Kremlin today with Austrian Federal Chancellor Franz Vranitsky. The United States President and I have agreed, he reported, that both countries will maintain contacts though foreign political and other departments involved in this very complex problem and "we will ask many questions in order to clarify the essence of this initiative. Certain grey areas [nyuansy] exist."

Since the initiative is unilateral, Mikhail Gorbachev noted, our studying of this problem does not impede the United States from acting unilaterally, and this is a good example for all. The USSR backs the United States initiative and, furthermore, stressed the president, we will propose broadening the initiative, making the proposed concept more complete—by adding to the nuclear arms cuts a reduction in nuclear tests as well. This, in the view of Mikhail Gorbachev, will be very opportune since, "if we are moving away from nuclear weapons, then why carry out nuclear tests." "We need to remove anxiety from the world community, and the USSR is willing to do so," the USSR president stated.

Gorbachev Reply Likely by Midweek

OW3009131891 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1010 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The USSR president is preparing his reply to the latest initiatives of the U.S. President concerning drastic cuts in nuclear weapons, said a prominent member of M. Gorbachev's press service. The Soviet reply, the spokesman told IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent, is likely to be ready by the middle of this week, after which M. Gorbachev will make it public.

The USSR president positively assessed George Bush's proposals. He said however that he will need time to study them carefully.

Gorbachev 'Surprise' Highlighted

PM3009205991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Sep 91 Union Edition p 1

[S. Dardykin article: "Gorbachev's Reaction to U.S. Initiatives Leaves Main Question Unanswered So Far"]

[Text] It seems that the nuclear arms reduction initiatives announced Friday evening by U.S. President George Bush have caught Moscow by surprise. Just as, incidentally, they came as a complete surprise to Washington's closest allies and even to the U.S. Congress. Until the very last minute only a handful of officials from the President's immediate entourage knew that such an initiative was in the offing and that it would contain what it did. Incidentally, all this is very reminiscent of the 1989 situation—the first year of the Bush presidency—when the idea of his meeting with Gorbachev on Malta was hatched in similar secrecy. In just the same way no more than a dozen of the U.S. President's aides were in on the plan. The idea was formulated in the same way, and then made public at a time of growing criticism of Bush—who people were saying was unable to keep ahead of events and could only react to them. And exactly the same surprise effect was created.

USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev's Saturday interview on Central TV started in this area, by answering a question on how unexpected Washington's proposals were. No, one learned from what our president said, the Bush initiatives did not come as a complete surprise. "Yesterday," Gorbachev said, "we talked with President Bush, and the previous morning he had sent me a letter on the matter, clearly counting on my familiarizing myself with the President's proposal on this score, and yesterday evening we had a conversation."

Gorbachev went on to say that the U.S. proposals are a "development of the process begun in Geneva and later in Reykjavik, and developed in Malta, Washington, and Moscow. So this very important nuclear disarmament process, in which both our countries—which have the largest nuclear potential—are participating, and actively participating, is reaching a new level and attaining a new dynamic. I would say that it is acquiring large-scale importance," Gorbachev concluded.

Had the president been interviewed by a journalist rather than his own press secretary, that journalist would probably not have missed the opportunity if not to sharpen the discussion, at least to flesh it out by asking just how unexpected were the proposals, their content, and the fact that the Americans have started implementing these measures without waiting for our reaction. However, the presidential aide who was asking the questions switched to another subject—our assessment of the Bush initiative.

"Our assessment of the proposals is positive, very positive," Gorbachev replied. "I would say," he went on to note, "that this initiative can be classed alongside the achievements during and after Reykjavik."

There could hardly have been any particularly doubt in Washington or anywhere else that our reaction would be positive. And how could one side's reaction be anything else, when the other side unilaterally and without preconditions takes a resolute step in the direction of disarmament? Although, as transpired from subsequent statements by U.S. Secretary of Defense R. Cheney and other officials, there are conditions. Washington, it transpires from these statements, could go back to the initial position if similar or equivalent steps do not follow from the Soviet Union. That is why anyone who heard the Gorbachev interview would be interested in knowing, above all, whether we will respond. And if so, when? And, most importantly of all, what sort of response will it be?

The text of the Gorbachev interview leaves these questions open. "It is too soon to completely assess all these proposals now—especially regarding specifics. It would be too hasty for our part and, I think, unconvincing for everyone. Nonetheless, on the basis of what we do know we can say that, no, these are serious proposals," he noted in response to a question about whether there was any trickery in the U.S. initiative. It transpired from Gorbachev's answer that the U.S. proposals had made him ask a whole number of questions. The first being: Does all this affect the other nuclear powers? At present we know that two of the other nuclear powers—Britain and France—have already reacted to Washington's measures by announcing reductions in their own tactical nuclear weapons.

The other question which arose for Gorbachev applies to nuclear tests. "I personally insist," he said, "that an opportunity is opening up to take an unprecedented step and move to the mutual ending of nuclear weapons tests. Then the entire world community would be convinced that, yes, this is a very promising new breakthrough."

Having closely familiarized myself with the text of the interview, I would assume that people in Washington—and in our country too, incidentally—would have nonetheless expected a somewhat different reaction from our president. They would have expected, if not a list of steps to be taken in response, at least promises that such steps would be taken. Naturally, one can and should accept the explanation that any measures in a sphere such as nuclear disarmament require preliminary consideration. One can also appreciate that the times really have changed (incidentally, Washington appreciates this perfectly) and that decisions even in the disarmament sphere are now made not so much in the Kremlin—they have at the very least to be coordinated with the republics. Perhaps the USSR president's power is no longer what it was even a few weeks ago. But his prestige is still sufficient for the interview not to have left unanswered the main question: Just what kind of step are we going to take in response to the Americans?

Pankin Sees 'Radical' Change in Ties

LD0110081891 Moscow TASS in English 0659 GMT 1 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Yevgeny Menkes]

[Text] United Nations October 1 TASS—The Soviet Union will respond adequately to President George Bush's arms control initiative, Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin said on Monday at the Council for International Relations in New York.

"The victory of the democratic revolution in the Soviet Union helped remove domestic barriers on the road to demilitarising all spheres of public life and eliminating the excess military potential," Pankin said. "Military conversion is considered a priority. Sufficiency becomes a guiding principle for building armed forces."

"President Bush's peaceful initiative put forward last week, was a response to the Soviet Union's democratic challenge. The president's proposal is a logical continuation of the nuclear disarmament programme outlined by President Mikhail Gorbachev in January 1986 and a dialogue between the Soviet and U.S. Presidents in Reykjavik," Pankin said.

"The initiative provides for radical change in the character of U.S.-Soviet relations in the military-political sphere," Pankin said.

"The announced unilateral moves and measures demanding mutual actions will undoubtedly have an adequate response from our side," Pankin said. "A quick and positive reaction to the U.S. initiative by Presidents Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin proves this. Ukrainian parliament head Leonid Kravchuk also spoke about it from the U.N. rostrum."

Petrovskiy: USSR To Act Comparably

LD3009231491 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1705 GMT 30 Sep 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Nikishov and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow, 30 Sep (TASS)—"The Soviet Union is ready to take actions of comparable significance", stated Vladimir Petrovskiy, USSR first deputy foreign minister, at a briefing today. He was commenting on the initiative of U.S. President George Bush with regard to the reduction of nuclear weapons arsenals.

In the view of Vladimir Petrovskiy, the initiative proposals of the U.S. President "could give a new dynamic to the process of movement toward complete rejection, in the final analysis, of nuclear arsenals".

The USSR first deputy foreign minister assessed the fact that President George Bush acquainted not only the closest allies of the United States with his proposals in advance, but also the Soviet Union as "a new way of

conducting international affairs". "This is graphic evidence of the assertion and development in Soviet-U.S. relations of partnership, trust and close—and in effect—constant interaction in settling the acute problems of world politics", he stressed. While paying due tribute to the positive content of the U.S. initiatives, Vladimir Petrovskiy noted that their "range could have been even richer if it had also embraced the issue of stopping nuclear tests". He also expressed the opinion that "it would also be important at a certain stage to involve all other states which possess this deadly weaponry in the nuclear disarmament process as well".

"We favor the immediate development of a dialogue on the content" of the George Bush's initative, noted Vladimir Petrovskiy. "There is a real chance today to break through toward a nuclear-free world, and it is our deep conviction that this chance must not be squandered", he stressed. In his opinion this initiative will have great influence on other directions for disarmament as well, including chemical and conventional weapons.

Answering a question about the possibility of a unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests, Vladimir Petrovskiy recalled that de facto the Soviet Union is not carrying out any tests. "Why couldn't the other side interpret that as a policy which shows a good example?", he said.

In conclusion, Vladimir Petrovskiy stated that during talks with the United States, the position of the USSR will be coordinated with the republics, something which has, in effect, become the actual practice of the All-Union Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Karpov Urges U.S. Test Ban Support

AU3009105991 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 30 Sep 91 pp 1-2

[Vladimir Markov report from Moscow: "Moscow, Too, Is Ready for Disarmament"]

[Text] Moscow— U.S. President George Bush's latest disarmament initiative fell on fertile soil in Moscow. Viktor Karpov, Soviet deputy foreign minister and former USSR chief negotiator at the Geneva disarmament talks, said in an interview with DIE PRESSE that the USSR is willing to start consultations and negotiations with the United States.

In addition, he announced that the Soviet strategic bombers' state of alert would be reduced—as had already been ordered by President Bush for U.S. bombers. The security and disarmament expert assessed Bush's initiative as an important step toward creating a qualitatively new and lasting basis for relations between the United States and the Soviet Union.

This initiative and Mikhail Gorbachev's positive reaction to it deals with the transition from the policy of confrontation and containment to normal cooperation between the two superpowers.

Karpov welcomes Bush's decision to eliminate all U.S. nuclear short-range missiles all over the world. This is particularly urgent in view of topical developments in the Soviet Union, where these weapons systems are widely distributed in the Armed Forces. Moscow has long advocated the elimination of all tactical nuclear weapons.

According to Karpov, it is desirable to reduce not only Soviet and U.S. stocks, but also the arsenals of other nuclear powers. "Consultations and negotiations between the USSR and the United States are necessary to coordinate the implementation of the disarmament and arms control measures that have been announced and of other measures and to avoid misunderstandings," Karpov said.

As a result, the Soviet diplomat and disarmament expert added, the standpoints of Moscow and Washington now concur concerning the issue of eliminating sea-based tactical nuclear weapons.

The reduction of the state of alert of strategic bombers of the United States and the Soviet Union introduces a new element in the relations of both states and will have a very positive effect as regards further detente, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Karpov told DIE PRESSE.

The question of strategic missiles, which was also broached in Bush's initiative, is a bit more complicated. This involves partly the fulfillment of the treaty regulations of the START agreement, which was concluded last July, and partly more far-reaching structural changes in the strategic forces. The latter requires additional negotiations.

Therefore, according to Karpov, Moscow proposes the start of bilateral talks on this subject before the ratification of the START agreement. A new round of consultations, which should serve, among other things, the consolidation of strategic stability, could start as early as at the beginning of October.

According to Karpov, the Soviet Union also wants to take up Bush's offer for negotiations on technical cooperation in storing, transportation, disassembly, and destruction of nuclear warheads.

Like Mikhail Gorbachev in his first comment on Bush's initiative, Karpov pointed to the need to put the question of a comprehensive stop to nuclear testing on the agenda. Unfortunately, this problem was not mentioned in the U.S. initiative, he remarked.

All Soviet nuclear testes were ceased more than a year ago. "U.S. readiness to stop nuclear tests together with us would decisively reduce their importance for modern arsenals," Karpov stated.

In this connection, the Soviet deputy foreign minister spoke about the concurrence achieved now between Russia, Kazakhstan, the Ukraine, and Belorussia that all nuclear weapons stationed on their territories must

remain under the strict control of the central power. A splitting of the Soviet nuclear forces would be disastrous, Karpov said.

At the same time, however, these republics must have the right to have their say as regards nuclear weapons. However, this does not mean in any case that the republics are to get the right to use nuclear weapons independently.

General Staff's Omelichev Comments

LD3009195691 Moscow TASS in English 1724 GMT 30 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Andrei Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow September 30 TASS—"The General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces has positively received the initiative for nuclear arms reduction, which was launched by U.S. President George Bush last Friday," Colonel-General Bronislav Omelichev, first deputy chief of the USSR General Staff, told TASS.

At the same time, he recalled that "a similar initiative was put forward by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev back in January 1986. It contained, in part, the well-known programme to work towards a nuclear-free world by the year 2000. One should evidently speak today about how the existing proposals can be combined to begin a real movement in this direction." Omelichev said the General Staff is already looking for suitable measures to complement the U.S. initiative.

Omelichev said tactical nuclear weapons were and remain to be deployed on the territory of several Union republics. Speaking about the possibility of their unsanctioned use, he emphasised "the existing nuclear control system rules this out." As for the union republics that declared state sovereignty, "troop withdrawals from their territories, to be regulated by respective treaties, will be carried out in parallel with the withdrawal of battlefield nuclear weapons," Omelichev said.

He clarified that weapons located on the territory of some or other republic are not that republic's property. "This is the property of the Armed Forces and them alone. Only the Defence Ministry has the right to control tactical or any other nuclear weapons. Naturally, by the decision of the supreme state leadership," Omelichev said.

Commenting on reports about U.S. planned steps to lower the level of its strategic nuclear weapons' operational standby, Omelichev said the Soviet side is considering appropriate reciprocal actions. He said a positive answer could be given to some aspects of the proposals even now. "Say, if the U.S. removes strategic bombers from operational standby, we are ready to decommission our heavy bombers, which represents an adequate step."

As for intercontinental ballistic missiles, Omelichev believes it would be more appropriate to consider this issue within the framework of the talks on strategic stability. True, this purely technical issue "will require a thorough study", Omelichev stressed.

Post-Putsch Timing Contemplated

PM0110104891 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Oct 91 Single Edition p 5

[Yevgeniy Shashkov article under the "My Opinion" rubric: " 'Magic Wand' for Whom?"]

[Text] Strike while Gorbachev is hot! That, paraphrasing the well-known saying, is how I would characterize G. Bush's latest disarmament initiative. In a television address to the nation, the U.S. President announced his decision to eliminate in all countries of the world U.S. land-based tactical nuclear weapons based there.

The United States will also remove all tactical nuclear arms from surface ships, attack submarines, and land-based naval aircraft. The U.S. President called on the USSR to act in the same way. G. Bush also proposed to begin cooperation with the USSR in three spheres: technical cooperation on the safe and economically [as published] responsible storage, transportation, dismantling, and destruction of nuclear warheads; cooperation in ensuring the security of nuclear arms; and, last, the formulation of measures to ensure additional protection against unsanctioned or accidental use of nuclear weapons.

As is usual among real allies, G. Bush held preliminary consultations on these proolems with the leaders of leading Western countries, and in particular he took account of the valuable advice of Prime Minister Major, President Mitterrand, and Chancellor Kohl. No such preliminary consultations were held with our president, unless you count a letter and telephone call from Bush a few hours before the announcement of the peace initiative. Nonetheless M. Gorbachev immediately described it as positive, and as promising substantial progress toward a nuclear-free world. Although those who saw his television interview on Saturday could not fail to observe that our president was "hedging" on the concrete details of the Bush plan. But you can understand the leader of the center: Disarmament topics are for him a kind of "magic wand"—an opportunity to tackle a concrete task in conditions where the center's other functions are increasingly evaporating. What is surprising is something else: There was also instant approval from other politicians, including republic figures.

Undeniably, the destruction of nuclear weapons, the desire for a nuclear-free world—all this deserves support. But why, today, when the country lacks elementary civil peace, when people are dying every day in the hot spots and society is on the brink of economic disaster, has no state figure stated outright that what we expect today from the United States, and from the West in general, is not so much disarmament initiatives as proposals of a very different kind. On the eve of a cold and hungry winter, how can the most important thing for us be

technical assistance from the Americans in dismantling and destroying nuclear warheads, or an agreement on the joint creation and deployment of a nonnuclear antimissile defense system?

Maybe the Americans have agreed to finance, for free, the disarmament process in our country? Nothing of the kind. At the moment, every new disarmament agreement means more and more black holes in our budget.

In my view the United States, Britain, and France (these last two countries have also put forward proposals analogous to the Americans') and other leading Western states have come to the conclusion that tactical nuclear weapons have fulfilled the functions assigned to them during the period of the "cold war" and East-West confrontation. What need, for instance, does France have today for Hades land-based missiles? At best they could only reach Wuerzburg or Prague. The same applies, in general, to U.S. nuclear shells and land-based tactical missiles.

But was that the only reason why the West put forward its disarmament initiative? I think not. After the initial euphoria prompted by the abortive putsch in the USSR, the West suddenly, finally, realized that the Union in its previous form no longer exists, the center is "evaporating," and therefore there will soon be nobody who is fully accountable for the fate of 27,000 Soviet nuclear warheads. Learning from the bitter experience of the bloody disintegration of Yugoslavia, where neither the United States nor the EC states could prevent interethnic carnage, the West became seriously concerned: God forbid that nuclear weapons be brought into play in a similar conflict in the USSR. After all, in the Union, there are such weapons not only on the territory of Russia, the Ukraine, Belorussia, and Kazakhstan, but also in virtually all the other republics. I am talking about air defense anti-aircraft missiles with nuclear warheads, nuclear artillery shells, and other types of tactical nuclear weapons. It is virtually impossible to monitor [prokontrolirovat] their transportation, and orders concerning their use may be given at the level of divisional commanders.

All this made the French president, even before G. Bush's initiative, call for the convening of a meeting of representatives of Europe's nuclear powers with U.S. participation, in order to "guarantee the continent's security." In short, it is primarily a question of a pragmatic approach on the part of Western countries, with a view to safeguarding themselves against unforeseen consequences of the disintegration of the Union, and only after that is it a question of concern for a nuclear-free world. If that was the point at issue, Bush should also have called for a general ban on nuclear tests, but he did not do this.

Bush's television address did not touch on other topics apart from the disarmament theme. Nonetheless I would not be surprised if, at the conference of nuclear powers of Europe and the United States to be held before the end of this year, the granting of Western economic and technical aid to our country is made conditional on the satisfactory resolution of the nuclear problem. The United States is in a hurry, because G. Bush apparently believes that a full-scale nuclear deal is possible only with the center, with Gorbachev. Any delay could mean that nuclear weapons, including tactical weapons, could become a contentious problem at talks on the independence of sovereign republics. And that could result in nuclear disarmament talks having to be conducted not with the USSR, but with 15 or so independent nuclear states.

Such a prospect horrifies not only disarmament experts, but ordinary people in the Old World. That is why the entire West greeted G. Bush's September appeal euphorically. People there are confident that the U.S. President's plan is extremely attractive to us, since it presupposes the destruction of the nuclear shells and warheads which are scattered around the republics, and that will prevent them from falling into the wrong hands in a period of civil war in our country...

That is what U.S. ABC television said. Well, thanks anyway.

By all appearances, under the same old cloak of talk about a nuclear-free world, the Bush initiative will be wholly accepted by us, without even any substantial preliminary conditions. If that happens, we will be left with a single, but very powerful move in reserve, a move that was proposed by my colleagues on the weekly KOMMERSANT back in the summer, after the signing of the START Treaty. In token of our eternal commitment to panhuman values and the absence of any national interests of our own, and in return for the bronze ensemble of eight ducklings and a duck that was shipped from the United States and installed alongside the Novodevichiy Monastery, representing a generalized image of American fairy tales, we should offer the Americans a statue of Ivan the Fool, the hero of Russian fairy tales. It could be set up near the Arlington Cemetery in Washington.

U.S. Fears Nuclear Arms in Ethnic Strife

PM011008459l Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 1 Oct 91 p 5

["Our Commentary" by A. Vasilyev: "Bush Wants To Stay in the White House and Keep Gorbachev in the Kremlin"]

[Text] When the Strategic Offensive Arms Reduction Treaty was signed during the Soviet-U.S. summit at the end of July and beginning of August in Moscow, most experts did not think that the next arms talks would be held soon. They took too long reaching understanding on strategic offensive arms, the subject of tactical weapons was too complex, and there was no need to rush. Regional problems seemed more pressing. What has changed now? Why has G. Bush decided to submit his own initiative?

The failure of the military coup speeded up the disintegration process within the Soviet Union. The great nuclear power is breaking up into individual states and it is impossible to predict what relations will be like between these states and whether they will be able to resolve interstate problems peacefully. The United States is most concerned that nuclear weapons will be used in the event of such conflicts. Moreover, whereas strategic arms are located on the territory of the four most stable republics—Russia, Kazakhstan, Belorussia and the Ukraine—and are, in all probability, under Moscow's tight control, tactical weapons are scattered throughout the Soviet Union and it is extremely hard to control [kontrolirovat] their movement since it is a question of tactical missiles and nuclear-tipped artillery shells. So the only means of securing the world against further Chernobyls is to destroy the tactical nuclear arms while they are still under the control of the central authorities. The White House obviously hopes that the Kremlin will not be overlyfussy about details in the situation that has taken shape and that the talks will be extremely vigorous. What is more, M.S. Gorbachev can be expected to submit his own proposals shortly which will be even more radical and portentous than G. Bush's initiative. At yesterday's news conference, for instance, V. Petrovskiy, USSR first deputy foreign minister, already suggested banning nuclear weapons tests.

George Bush very much wants Mikhail Gorbachev to stay in the Kremlin for some time to come. First, it is easier to reach agreement with him on disarmament matters than with the leaders of individual republics who think that it is hardly advisable to disarm ahead of impending interethnic conflicts. Second, it is easier to "wipe out" regional problems with Gorbachev.

One more point: The White House is afraid of being left face-to-face with Boris Yeltsin. Needless to say, Yeltsin has won tremendous prestige throughout the world because of his behavior during the putsch. But it is interesting that a week after the victory over the junta Yankelovich's service conducted a public opinion poll in the United States commissioned by TIME and CNN-TV. The list of questions included the following: What squares more with U.S. national interests—for Gorbachev or Yeltsin to head the Soviet leadership? Some 53 percent of respondents favored Gorbachev, while 22 percent favored Yeltsin. The more predictable "Gorby" is still dearer to the average American than the stormy "Boris," whose statement regarding the possibility of reviewing borders between the republics frightened the West as much as the notorious State Committee for the State of Emergency.

In early September ABC-TV organized a live interview with Mikhail Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin simultaneously. Americans were conscious of the difference between them: The former spoke of the need for cooperation between the republics and for new relations between them and the center, while the latter pressed for Russian interests. The revival of the idea of "mighty Rus" alarms the West because people there are convinced that democracy is the destiny of satisfied, successful peoples. Russia is "not threatened" with that in the near future, but for that reason the "Russian idea" may easily degenerate into Russian nationalism. It was not for nothing that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker warned Cabinet members a month ago at a White House conference that "nationalism may turn into fascism. If they descend into fascism or go back to Communism, it will be our fault."

Apart from the situation in the sphere of Soviet-U.S. relations there are also other intra-American reasons why G. Bush decided to submit another initiative. The point is that there will be presidential elections in the United States in a year which G. Bush intends to win. Foreign policy has hitherto been his hobbyhorse and U.S. domestic problems his weak point. In a year G. Bush's role in the victory over Saddam Husayn will have lost its luster and the Democrats will try to pin responsibility on him for the interethnic conflicts in the collapsing Soviet Union. People in the White House are perfectly well aware that mediating in these conflicts is more costly, but they cannot as it were be dodged. G. Bush has now gotten a chance to say that the administration is not renouncing involvement in resolving these problems, while vigorously advocating cuts in tactical nuclear weapons that may be used in interethnic clashes.

USSR To Meet Arms Initiative Halfway

LD3009163891 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1310 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Announcer-read commentary by Colonel Vadim Solovyev]

[Text] The initiative of President Bush of the United States to bring about nuclear disarmament, an initiative which Mr. Gorbachev and other government figures have supported, has evoked a broad response from the Soviet public and the military. Let's listen to our military observer Colonel Vadim Solovyev.

[Solovyev, in Russian with superimposed English translation] The proposals of the American President, as I see it, are fully in keeping with the very logic of years of reduction in American and Soviet strategic arsenals. Obviously, the grown trust for this country's disarmament policy, especially after the August events, has played the key role. Mr. Bush has vast areas of nuclear weapons in mind. The United States is ready to pull out tactical nuclear weapons from Europe and other regions around the world and to scrap them. It suggests getting rid of all tactical nuclear missiles, including cruises, aboard surface vessels and submarines, and ground-based, carrier-borne aviation. Besides, the intercontinental ballistic missiles liable for scrapping under the Soviet-American treaty for cuts in strategic offensive weapons are removed from combat duty. Talks are to take place to eliminate all nuclear MIRV [multiple independently targeted reentry vehicle] missiles.

The United States, however, is making a reservation for some of its military programs. It says it intends to continue getting action on them, including the SDI, giving much worries to the Soviet Union even though America euphemistically refers to it as Star Wars. President Bush's proposals are winning support from his allies. Britain has already volunteered to get rid of nuclear shorter-range missiles and deny its navy nuclear depth charges. All this shows that trust is reaching a principally new level of nuclear disarmament. The previous agreements to limit and reduce strategic offensive weapons took decades to shape, but from now on questions of this kind will be probably solved quickly enough by unilateral initiative.

In fact, what the U.S. President has proposed the Soviet side has repeatedly proposed at a negotiating table. This country is in favor of reducing and eliminating all strategic weapons. It wants to rid the world of all nuclear weapons. As the first step in this direction it believes all weapons of mass annihilation must stop being tested and produced. And I'd like to give you just one example. In 1985 the Soviet Union set a unilateral moratorium on all nuclear tests and was urging the other nuclear powers to do the same. Then it repeatedly extended the moratorium even though no response followed. Can the Soviet Union ignore the American proposals? An exclusively positive attitude has already been expressed by President Gorbachev and Defense Minister Shaposhnikov. When the proposals are studied in detail the USSR will undoubtedly meet them halfway.

Levin: New Approach to Disarmament

LD3009121891 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 0930 GMT 29 Sep 91

[from the "Mayak Panorama" program presented by Lidiya Podolnaya, with "observer" Viktor Nikolayevich Levin]

[Text] [Podolnaya] We will devote the next five minutes to the U.S. disarmament initiative. The essence of this initiative is a radical reduction of nuclear potential. The United States is ready to take these radical measures unilaterally, though it calls on the Soviet Union, in the first place, to follow its example. Viktor Nikolayevich, let us leave the technical side of the matter to military specialists, and let us talk about the political aspect of what has happened.

[Levin] In the first place, it seems to me, it is necessary to say that confidence in the Soviet Union, as the second largest nuclear power, affected this decision by U.S. President Bush. In the past there was a long dispute. The United States would say: First confidence, then disarmament. We, not very eager to step on a road of concrete disarmament, would say: No, first disarmament, then confidence. At last this scholastic argument is over, and now we can see that confidence gives such wonderful fruits. And confidence ensures security. As a matter of fact, the United States has reduced the possibility of an attack on the Soviet Union. Because of this, our security increases. So, confidence ensures security more safely than armaments.

And yet another feature. The elimination of tactical nuclear weapons is also saving huge amounts of money. Consequently, confidence not only ensures security more safely, it is also very important in our current conditions in that it saves money.

[Podolnaya] They might have used our weakness, however, mightn't they, if one judges by past stereotypes.

[Levin] By stereotypes of those who appropriated the name of patriots, the Americans should have conquered us a long time ago. But for some reason they are doing everything possible to ensure that the situation in the Soviet Union stabilizes, and that we solve our internal problems while they make the external situation more favorable.

[Podolnaya] Let us go back to the initiative. The U.S. President stressed the importance of the treaty on strategic offensive weapons, signed in July this year in Moscow, and pointed to the need for its speedy ratification.

[Levin] Of course, this treaty is very important. But in connection with this treaty I would like to remind our listeners that it took more than 10 years to finalize. The text itself and various appendices occupy nearly 1,000 pages. At the very last stage fierce arguments were still going on in the search for a balance of interests. The most complicated technical problems were being resolved and, it seems, one can be bogged down in such technical problems for a long time. The balance was found and the decision made. I remember one day Aleksandr Aleksandrovich Bessmertnykh, who was the foreign minister at the time, said: I think this is the last treaty of its kind. From my point of view, he turned out to be a prophet in this particular case. There will be no other such treaty. The START treaty is a wonderful agreement, but of a different era, the confrontation era, when each side carefully adjusted all parameters in order not to lose. And now Bush, by a single decision, changes the situation. By a single decision he liquidates a whole class of nuclear armaments and calls on the Soviet Union to follow his example. He himself has already made this decision. When we were taking unilateral measures we also called on the United States to do so. But what we are approaching now is a new approach in principle toward resolving disarmament problems.

[Podolnaya] What do you think of the assessment by Sununu, chief of staff at the White House, who stated that the initiative by President Bush is nothing else but the result of the putsch that the Soviet Union managed to crush.

[Levin] I think that Sununu is absolutely right. But for the August victory by democracy over those attempting the coup, there would be no talking about such an initiative. Moreover, I think that the START treaty

would be under threat now that we know what the plotters wanted. They wanted to bring us back to the previous situation. They wanted to return us to confrontation in our relations with the United States in order to justify politically the exhausting, mad, and senseless arms race. They stood by this. Since the putsch was organized by the military-industrial complex, everything is now clear. I think that today, 40 days since the day the lads defending the Moscow "White House" died, I can rightly say that they gave their lives for our future in the full meaning of this word.

New Soviet-U.S. Confidence Cited

PM0110113891 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 1 Oct 91 p 1

[Aleksandr Golts "Commentary" column: "A Miracle Born of Confidence"]

[Text] U.S. President G. Bush has made a sensational statement. In the view of Pentagon chief R. Cheney, it constitutes the most radical change in U.S. nuclear doctrine since 1954. And so the United States intends unilaterally to eliminate the tactical nuclear arms deployed in Europe and the Far East. Tactical munitions on U.S. Navy ships will also be eliminated. Finally, the level of readiness of strategic offensive arms will be lowered. Other constructive initiatives have also been put forward.

I admit I had my doubts as to whether B. Yeltsin was right when he said a few weeks ago that the disarmament process will move more quickly now. I doubted it not because that turn of events would be contrary to common sense. It was simply that past experience had shown that common sense and the logic of military confrontation are incompatible. Take tactical weapons. This means missiles, aviation bombs, and artillery shells with a range of up to 1,000 km. At one time it was these weapons that were supposed to halt the Soviet tank columns which NATO believed could surge forward from the GDR, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia into Western Europe.

But now the Soviet troops are leaving the East European countries. They will no longer be able to stage a surprise attack on NATO's combat formations. And weapons intended for this kind of "close-range" fighting have lost all meaning. Furthermore, it has become extremely dangerous to keep them.

All these appear to be cogent reasons for eliminating tactical nuclear weapons. But, while recognizing all this, the United States was until recently in no hurry to hold talks on the subject. Today, however, it is not only declaring readiness to eliminate an entire class of nuclear death. It is ready to encroach on naval arms—until recently the Pentagon's most untouchable deity.

Washington has taken this unusual step in the certainty that the Soviet Union will also do its part. And by all appearances it was not mistaken. What has happened? Where did the Americans get this certainty that their unilateral action would not be exploited to their detriment? The answer is simple: Genuine confidence has at long last sprung up between the USSR and the United States. This was stated frankly by White House Chief of Staff J. Sununu: The present initiative would have been impossible without the victory over the putchists.

...General C. Powell, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, has just announced that on the president's orders the alert status of more than 400 ICBMs and 40 strategic bombers has been changed.

In my time I have visited the main U.S. strategic command centers in Washington, Nebraska, and Colorado. I have also been at ICBM launch positions. The Americans meticulously described the control procedures, the multiple duplication of commands using mutually independent computer systems. But even Pentagon computers make mistakes. Instances are known. And good heavens, I was shocked to see the familiar outlines of the Union on the computer screens at U.S. command centers. Henceforth nuclear confrontation, which still persists, is really beginning to lessen.

Worldwide Issues

Pankin's Address to United Nations Summarized

PM2709135991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Sep 91 Union Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Our Country Will Never Be the Same. Speech By Soviet Delegation Head at United Nations"]

[Text] USSR Foreign Minister Boris Pankin, head of the Soviet delegation, addressed the 46th UN General Assembly session on Tuesday.

In the hall for the latest UN General Assembly session, looking at the faces and talking to the participants, you can almost physically feel that the representatives of the Soviet Union, which is transforming itself into a union of sovereign states, are viewed—and rightly so—as a new country, the minister said.

Addressing words of profound gratitude to everyone who displayed solidarity with us in the fight against the putsch, the minister emphasized that those days in August irrevocably showed us that the main trend in our own development, as in the development of the entire world community, is a desire for freedom. Society can only be dynamic and prosper where freedom and individual rights are fully guaranteed. The desire for freedom and democracy has never died in the hearts and minds of our country's people. It remained within us despite the decades of despotism and tyranny, and during the perestroyka years it came alive again with renewed vigor, developing into concrete action.

Boris Pankin noted that to a certain extent it was due to the putsch that a quite powerful centrifugal movement had developed in the Union. In the period 22 August

through 9 September eight republics declared their independence. However, when the element of coercion in our lives disappeared the sovereign republics were able to take their bearings and a centripetal movement was born and is gradually increasing. This is evidenced by the vigorous activity of the State Council. Now that a dynamic balance has developed between the center and the republics, we are turning our gaze with renewed vigor to the international community in the hope that it will offer us all the necessary assistance to ensure that this difficult period of transition is negotiated as rapidly and safely as possible and our country becomes a useful member of the world community.

Boris Pankin dwelt in detail on a number of highly important problems to be discussed by the session participants. Joint, what is effectively collective, regulation of international relations in areas of security and disarmament that are crucial to the fate of the world are a top priority in UN and world community activity, he said. The coordinated study and implementation of a concept for the next phase of disarmament is next in line. The minister singled out from among the series of disarmament problems the need to give military potentials an exclusively defensive thrust, reduce the numbers of and ultimately eliminate nuclear tests, and create a register of conventional arms sales and shipments. He noted with concern the upsurge in national hostility that has swept the world.

The Soviet delegation head indicated good prospects for resolving a number of regional conflicts such as the Near East, Afghan, and Cambodian conflicts. "The philosophy of new international solidarity that is taking root heralds the deideologization of the United Nations," he pointed out. "In updating our organization, we must renounce once and for all the legacy of the 'ice age' like the hateful resolution equating Zionism with racism." Stressing the significance of universalizing the United Nations, the minister said: "It is with a special feeling that I welcome our colleagues, the plenipotentiary representatives of the new sovereign and independent states of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia." He added that the USSR and the Baltic states have begun the process of establishing diplomatic relations and exchanging embassies.

"The United Nations has accomplished a great deal," Boris Pankin said in conclusion. "But more problems and tasks still lie ahead. They all fully reflect the challenges and risks facing the international community today. Our common, indivisible destinies depend in many respects and perhaps to a crucial extent on how the United Nations succeeds in updating itself and becoming a true multilateral guarantor of peace and security."

Cuba, Ukraine-ROK Issues Added to UN Agenda

91UF1207A Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
20 Sep 91 Union Edition p 5

[Article by IZVESTIYA correspondent A. Shalnev: "In the Meeting Hall and Behind the Scenes: The Question of Lifting the Embargo Against Cuba Is Introduced Into the Agenda of the United Nations"]

[Text] New York—One more item, No. 144, was added to the United Nations General Assembly session agenda—on putting an end to the economic, trade, and financial embargo introduced by the United States against Cuba 30 years ago.

The Cuban delegation insisted on that item. The objections which were initially advanced by Washington were eventually withdrawn. Of course, this does not mean that when the subject of the embargo is debated at the session the United States will not speak out against the cancellation of the sanctions.

This issue is of special urgency for Havana in the context of the qualitatively new relations which are beginning to exist between it and Moscow and whose character, as the Cubans are convinced, will have the most ruinous effect on the already catastrophic condition of the Cuban economy. Thus the need for alternative sources for support and development of the economy of Cuba.

The United States is the most natural partner if only because Cuba is only 90 miles from the shores of Florida. But the embargo, which was introduced soon after the victory of the revolution, is extremely strict and is enforced, one may say, with an iron hand. Two examples: Americans are forbidden to take tourist trips to Cuba; Americans are forbidden to take Cuban cigars into the United States from anywhere. Violations are punished with a substantial fine and, if one is unlucky, with imprisonment.

It is doubtful whether the debates around item 144 will bring any significant results. Even if a miracle occurs and all the countries vote for the lifting of the embargo, Washington will not be guided by that vote but rather by what it considers to be the national interests of America. And its national interests demand preservation of the sanctions which, as the administration supposes, together with the reexamination of the nature of Soviet-Cuban relations which is beginning, will "squeeze" the regime of Fidel Castro.

Approximately the same time as discussions were under way in the headquarters of the United Nations on whether or not to include this point in the agenda, there were two demonstrations outside the headquarters. One, the larger, demanded the immediate lifting of the embargo and a speedy withdrawal of American troops from the base at Guantanamo—following the example of the withdrawal of the Soviet troops. The second, several times smaller, demanded the resignation of Castro. The first, as it was possible to notice, was made up of Americans for the most part. The second—almost only of Cubans.

Another interesting, in my opinion, event of the second day of the new sessions was a meeting between Anatoliy Zlenko, minister of foreign affairs of the Ukraine, and the minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Korea.

According to information from the Ukrainian delegation, at the meeting, among other things, they examined the question of establishing diplomatic consular relations between the Ukraine and Korea.

The discussion of this question, raised at the initiative of the Ukrainian side, did not result in anything concrete. There is, however, an assumption that contacts on this subject may be transferred to a higher level when the president of the Republic of Korea and the chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukraine arrive in New York in coming days.

From my conversation with Korean sources, however, I received the impression that Korea is not showing particular enthusiasm toward the idea of the establishment of diplomatic relations, although it is interested in the development of trade and economic relations.

And a last item. At the United Nations one hears increasing speculation that Russian President Boris Yeltsin may arrive in New York soon to make an appeal to the world from the tribunal of the 46th session. Several weeks ago IZVESTIYA wrote about a similar rumor. Now that rumor has, as I understand it, moved into the realm of "quite possible." If the trip occurs, one may expect President Yeltsin to travel to Washington as well for a meeting with George Bush. Incidentally, I do not rule out the possibility that the visit to America may be twofold: Along with the Russian president, M.S. Gorbachev may arrive at the same time. From all points of view with the exception, perhaps, of that of protocol, this would be the ideal variant: A demonstration to the world as a whole and to Washington in particular of a serious and working partnership embodying that central power without which America, for example, is not very prepared to offer its economic and financial embrace to our country.

Deryabin Addresses CSCE on Journalists' Safety

PM3009133791 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Sep 91 Union Edition p 4

[Article by G. Charodeyev: "Journalists' Security Must Be Guaranteed"]

[Text] In the House of the Unions' Hall of Columns in Moscow Yuriy Deryabin, USSR deputy foreign minister and one of the heads of the Soviet CSCE delegation, addressed the CSCE Conference on the Human Dimension.

He reminded representatives of the countries involved in the pan-European process that intensive searches have now been under way for more than 20 days for the two Soviet television journalists—Viktor Nogin and Gennadiy Kurinnyy—who disappeared in Yugoslavia, which is in the grip of civil war. Unfortunately, he stressed, the steps taken have not as yet borne fruit and it only remains to hope that our guys will very soon be able to resume their professional duties. The Soviet spokesman voiced the conviction that this concern is shared by the whole European Community. Our delegation suggested that the following appeal be examined and adopted immediately:

"Representatives of the CSCE states at the Moscow Conference on the Human Dimension voice profound concern at the disappearance in Yugoslavia of Soviet journalists V. Nogin and G. Kurinnyy, who were performing their professional duty there. They insistently urge all authorities in the SFRY and its republics and everyone in Yugoslavia able to do this to help the investigation or help discover what has happened to them."

Deryabin then said that the Soviet delegation knows that these proposals go beyond the framework of CSCE traditions and procedures. Conferences have never adopted this kind of appeal concerning one country; appeals have never contained a direct addressee. But human life is above diplomatic canons.

It is often the journalist's profession that proves most vulnerable and least protected. Yet the risk will increase as more and more "hot spots" and conflict zones develop on our continent. In the Soviet spokesman's opinion, the task is to provide their work with the maximum protection and formulate the corresponding guarantees. Deryabin submitted a proposal regarding freedom of information and journalists' rights in a state of emergency. In particular, delegations were asked to agree on the following:

"Under no circumstances should the imposition of a state of emergency or any exceptional measures be used per se to restrict the freedom to obtain, reproduce, and circulate information and ideas in oral, printed, or other forms without state intervention and regardless of state borders.

"A state of emergency cannot be used to take steps aimed against journalists, namely steps to limit their personal freedom, bans on their professional activity, the closure of mass media, and confiscation of their property, printruns, and programs.

"Such inadmissible measures also include the deportation of foreign journalists, refusal to continue their accreditation, or refusal to allow them to leave the country.

"Journalists against whom restrictive steps were taken during a state of emergency are entitled at the first opportunity to complain to an independent court set up on the basis of law and whose competence must include the right to abrogate the restrictive measures."

The Soviet delegation also suggested that countries involved in the pan-European process confirm that journalists deprived of freedom due to armed conflicts must be guaranteed safety, proper treatment, and the right to contact the outside world and to medical aid.

So as not to breach procedural regulations, at the German representatives' suggestion the appeal prepared

by the Soviet delegation was signed outside the official framework of the conference by all delegation heads—in the foyer of the House of the Unions' Hall of Columns. The document will shortly be sent to the authorities in the SFRY and its republics and to all governments involved in the pan-European process.

General Lobov Talks With NATO Delegation 30 Sep

LD0110002291 Moscow TASS in English 1947 GMT 30 Sep 91

[By TASS stringer Vladimir Nikanorov]

[Text] Moscow September 30 TASS—General of the Army Vladimir Lobov, chief of the Soviet Armed Forces' General Staff, on Monday met a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) delegation led by British General Brian Kenny, deputy supreme allied commander of NATO in Europe. The delegation had arrived here to attend an international conference on security issues.

During a constructive conversation held in an atmosphere of frankness, trust and mutual understanding, Lobov and the NATO delegation members discussed the changes of military doctrines, the reforming of armed forces within the context of present-day political realities, and the deepening of the disarmament process.

On the same day the NATO delegation visited the military academy of the Soviet Armed Forces' General Staff.

Situation in Soviet Union Helps Preserve NATO

PM3009104391 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Sep 91 Single Edition p 5

[Article by PRAVDA Political Observer Tomas Kolesnichenko: "It Is We...Who Are Strengthening NATO"]

[Text] I have lived to see the day, as they say. I am defending NATO. But it is still worth talking a bit about NATO. If only because—however paradoxical it may sound—we ourselves are strengthening the bloc.

NATO is the same kind of product of the cold war as the former Warsaw Pact. At first glance it is highly logical that, together with the disappearance of the Warsaw Pact, NATO should also have sunk into oblivion. How many lances have been broken on this premise. NATO's existence "among those who have climbed out of the trenches" has served as classic proof of "treacherous" concessions in our foreign policy. Oh yes! We have disarmed but "they" are building up their strength. We have "given back" the Czechs, Poles, and others, but do they care? They are moreover modernizing their armament. This last fact will doubtless raise a smile among the military. Who is not modernizing them? With technological development today's arms will look tomorrow like Chapayev's Maxim gun. But it is something else which is of concern.

NATO—as "they" are accustomed to seeing it—is a finely tuned, spontaneous instrument. In contrast to several of our fossilized structures, NATO accommodates itself in a flexible manner to a rapidly changing world. For example, NATO's doctrines of recent times and the "doctrine of deterrence" (when our SS-20's were aimed at well nigh every city in West Europe, and their Pershings could reach Moscow in a few minutes) are as different as chalk and cheese. Moreover, NATO is taking on more and more political functions. It has even seemed to many that, given time, a certain convergence of NATO with the CSCE process will take place. After the Paris meeting people even began to claim that the CSCE, by becoming "institutionalized," will swallow up NATO by taking away its political functions, while the military functions, it is claimed, will die out of their own accord. Neither one thing nor the other took place. But the important thing is that NATO is keeping its powder dry. Why?

First and foremost because we ourselves are helping it to do so. It is now being said that the CIA "missed" the SCSE [State Committee for the State of Emergency] plotters' coup. Maybe, but NATO was always prepared for such a turn of events. However much we claimed earlier that the Soviet military threat no longer exists, this possibility was monitored by NATO.

I am also sure that NATO's ears will not pick up our protestations that, now that democracy has been victorious and we are prepared to accept the West's rules of the game in their entirety, return to the family of "civilized states," integrate our economy, and so on, the USSR no longer presents a threat.

In the first place the USSR as such no longer exists, and the new states which have emerged from its fragments are forcing NATO to solve an equation with an even larger number of unknowns.

Second, for the time being democracy has won, or to be more precise may only win (if there is at least a change in our economic situation), in Russia. It is still too early to talk about Georgia, Azerbaijan, Moldova, Uzbekistan (remember "Birlik"s' fate), and several other republics. But the protracted "victors' feast" also puts you on your guard. The reservations regarding borders, the most recent example being in Estonia, are not simply reservations. Fed into NATO's computers, they generate situation analyses in which, I think, the possible and impossible consequences of these thoughtless statements are miscalculated not only from a political but also purely military viewpoint. To these we also have to add Zhirinovskiy's tracts. Maybe we find this funny, but computers do not as yet have a sense of numor, and the 6 million who voted for the new "firm hand" are just that—6 million.

Third, there is the problem of the storage and control of our nuclear weapons. Being accustomed to muddle, we do not have a particular problem here. Maybe everything will be sorted out. Well someone—even at a high level—

has made some statement, and a dangerous one at that. And if it gets "misunderstood," it can always be clarified. No, you cannot always do this. Not only computers but also history has now recorded them, including the incomprehensible dualism and the "dual key." As a result all of this, as people would have said earlier, is "grist to NATO's mill."

Maybe we have had enough and should stop? And if we are standing on the threshold of the civilized world, let us leave all of this behind. We simply will not be admitted with all this baggage. Incidentally, fervent anticommunists are just as little liked there as fervent communists.

But the scenario for the elimination of NATO is—if you will pardon the expression—banal. This would be: a genuine victory for democracy here in our country; a rule-of-law but not a voluntarist state; an economy insured against social upheavals; stability and clarity, especially as concerns the Armed Forces.

Even then you will doubtless find people in NATO who will try to preserve this bloc or something like it. It is not only in this country that there is no shortage of people who "cannot waive their principles." But by then it will be highly difficult for them to do this, and in time it will simply be impossible.

Maybe we should try?

United States & Canada

Senior Economist Volskiy Visits United States

Warns of Loss of Soviet Market

LD0110021391 Moscow TASS in English 2145 GMT 30 Sep 91

[By correspondent Mikhail Kolesnichenko]

[Text] New York October 1 TASS—"The principal goal of my visit to the United States is to convince American businessmen, the Administration and Congress not to be scared of forging businesslike relations with the Soviet Union, to strike unfearlessly trade and economic deals and invest in our economy," a senior Soviet economist told TASS on Monday.

"If the United States continues to adopt a wait-and-see stance, it may lose the Soviet market which is now being intensively developed by European and Asian corporations," said Arkadiy Volskiy, deputy head of the Soviet Economic Management Committee and president of the USSR Scientific and Industrial Union. He is visiting the United States at the invitation of several political and public organisations and business and academic communities.

"Representatives of business communities in many countries are now visiting the USSR," he said. "Negotiations are in progress both at the governmental level and directly with Soviet enterprises and organisations. German, French, Italian, South Korean, Singaporean and Taiwanese businessmen are most active. One can say even today that these companies have contracts from which both they and their partners stand to gain. The inertia of the United States, which does not move to develop trade and economic cooperation with the USSR is amazing against this background. Because of this stance it may lose the Soviet market.

"Certainly, various restrictions on Soviet-U.S. commerce are in force. However, the U.S. Government and Congress should realise it is necessary that the hands of their businessmen be untied as soon as possible and the discriminatory Jackson-Vanik and Stevenson amendments, which actually block the normal development of trade and economic relations between the two countries be abrogated," Volskiy said.

Volskiy stressed he had a very hectic schedule. He is expected to meet managers of U.S. leading corporations, economists and politicians. A total of over 40 meetings are planned.

Talks With U.S. Bank Official

LD2809045191 Moscow TASS in English 1218 GMT 27 Sep 91

[By diplomatic correspondent Sergey Nikishov]

[Text] Moscow September 27 TASS—John Macomber, president of the U.S. Export-Import Bank, agreed that limitations on economic help to the Soviet Union should be abolished. He said his bank is ready to promote Soviet-American cooperation.

In a meeting with Macomber today, Arkadiy Volskiy, deputy head of the Soviet economy management committee, told him the Soviet Union needs financial help and market economy know-how and that there should be no limitations on U.S. economic help to the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union is ready to pay its debts to other countries. The State Council decided to secure guarantees to foreign credits, Volskiy said.

Army Paper Notes End of Pentagon Publication

PM3009154191 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Sep 91 First Edition p 3

[G. Kostenko article: "End of a Relic"]

[Text] Yet another "cold war" machine has ground to a halt (maybe forever): At the end of last month, the Pentagon leadership stopped preparing to publish the latest "Soviet Military Power" handbook.

The present-day position in the USSR and the world situation, the U.S. press is noting, has made this propaganda publication "practically as useful as last year's snow." The handbook has been published regularly since 1981, when, during the first few years of R. Reagan's

presidency, wide-ranging programs emerged for the modernization of U.S. Armed Forces, and it was necessary to persuade Congress and the public of the need to increase military spending. There were 10 issues in all.

The "Soviet Military Power" handbook was not so much a collection of sometimes fabricated data on Soviet arms and military policy as a special kind of barometer of the level of relations between the two superpowers. After our perestroyka began, certain fabricated accusations started appearing less frequently in the latest publications, but the confrontational spirit was on the whole maintained.

Initially we too were drawn into this "struggle" and responded to the U.S. handbook with one of our own—"Whence the Threat to Peace." But we abandoned this propaganda sooner than the Pentagon. Only three issues were published before people realized that there was no point getting involved in an unproductive polemic.

We would note for the sake of justice that the authors of the U.S. handbook also met with fiasco because events in the USSR developed too quickly. Even daily newspapers can hardly keep up with them, let alone a publication that comes out once a year. It was better not to find yourself looking absurd the day after the appearance of a beautiful print run of 200,000 copies with the Pentagon seal on the title page.

China

Moscow Mandarin Rounds Up Sino-Soviet Contacts

OW0110090391 Moscow Radio Moscow in Mandarin 1300 GMT 30 Sep 91

["An Account of Soviet-Chinese Contacts," from the "Current Events and Commentaries" program]

[Text] Since the failure of the coup in August, great changes have taken place in the Soviet Union. Developing neighborly and friendly relations between the Soviet Union and China, however, is still a major objective of the Soviet Union's foreign policy. Soviet Vice Foreign Minister Rogachev and Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Tian Zengpei discussed this during their meeting in Moscow. The two sides reiterated their commitments stated in the joint communiques signed at the high-level meetings between the two sides in 1989 and 1991. In an interview with Hong Kong television reporters, Chinese Premier Li Peng said relations between China and the Soviet Union had developed steadily since relations between the two countries were normalized in 1989.

Economic contacts between the two countries also have been very active. At the end of September, the Soviet side delivered to the Chinese side the second [name indistinct] passenger plane China ordered from the Soviet Union in 1990. China ordered from the Soviet Union three aircraft of this type in 1990. This [the third] aircraft will be delivered to Beijing in mid-October.

Two Chinese industrial exhibitions simultaneously opened in the Soviet Union on 20 September—one in Moscow and the other in Khabarovsk. At the Beijing Industrial Exhibition 1991 held in Moscow, numerous new technologies and products for daily use were on display. Research units of nearly 80 Chinese companies exhibited their research results, including computers, television receivers, video recorders and players, medical equipment, pharmaceutical products, and foodstuffs. The exhibition in Khabarovsk displayed Jilin Province's technological results. Diplays at the exhibition included agricultural products, foodstuffs, processing equipment, medical equipment, and products for daily use. The main purpose of the exhibition was to promote economic exchanges between the two countries.

An Oriental medical center was inaugurated in Amur (Gongqing) City. Doctors working at the center are from Harbin. They use acupuncture, massage, and other traditional Chinese medical treatments to treat patients' sickness. It has been learned that the city is planning to set up other medical centers of this kind.

At a national water skiing competition in China's Hunan Province, Chinese and Soviet skiers held a friendship match. Among the Soviet skiers taking part in the competition were world champion (Ubalenko) and a few other well-known skiers.

Northeast Asia

Japanese Trade, Aid To Soviet Union Explored

Delegation on Future Trade

LD0110032791 Moscow TASS in English 1044 GMT 30 Sep 91

[By TASS diplomatic correspondent Vasiliy Titov]

[Text] Moscow September 30 TASS—A delegation of representatives from Japanese business and government circles is currently visiting the USSR. It arrived here on Sunday [29 September] evening. The delegation is headed by deputy chief of the Trade Policy Department of the Japanese Ministry for Foreign Trade and Industry Yasuo Hayashi and includes representatives of the Bank of Tokyo.

The trip of Japanese officials and financiers was undertaken after Tokyo recently decided to provide state insurance to a part of the foreign trade transactions affected by Japanese companies in the Soviet Union.

The delegation will spend one week in Moscow. It plans to meet leaders of the Interrepublican Economic Committee, which is now discharging the functions of the former federal government, representatives from the Russian Council of Ministers and also from the USSR Foreign Economic Bank. One of the main purposes of the visit is to establish whether the centre and the

republic are able to pay for Japanese deliveries and to determine the future trade partner.

Local observers believe the talks can hardly be smooth, since the Soviet debt in trade with Japanese companies already amounts to about 500 million U.S. dollars.

Legislators in Soviet Far East

OW2809091391 Moscow Radio Moscow in Japanese 1100 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] According to a TASS dispatch from Vladivostok, a Japanese legislative delegation has ended its 4-day visit to the Maritime Kray.

Yoshitomo Tanaka, special envoy and also leader of the delegation to survey food and medical situation in the Soviet Far East, explained that the purpose of the delegation's visit was to conduct an on-the-spot survey of the actual situation of food and medicines so as to find out the adequate quantity and the best method of assistance that Japan can provide. In this way, necessary funds for the assistance will be included in the budget for fiscal 1992. Then, he added that assistance will probably be provided in loans through the Red Cross or private setor channels. Meanwhile, Mr. Tanaka also disclosed that funds for humanitarian aid will amount to as much as $1 million.

Telecommunications Assistance

PM2709135191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Sep 91 Union Edition p 1

[Untitled Report from the IZVESTIYA, TASS, INTERFAX, RIA, and POSTFACTUM roundup]

[Text] Japan will give the Soviet Union technological help in improving its telecommunications system. The KYODO NEWS AGENCY reports that this announcement has been made by a spokesman of the Japanese Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications.

Joint Timber Venture

PM0110082991 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Sep 91 p 1

[Report from TASS, INTERFAX, RIA, ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA "News In Brief" roundup]

[Text] A contract has been concluded in Komsomolsk-na-Amure on setting up a joint venture between the "Snezhnyy" timber procurement enterprise and the Japanese firm "Nisse Ivay" [as transliterated].

Japan 'Can Afford To Wait' for Islands Settlement

PM0110101591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Sep 91 Union Edition p 4

[Report by correspondent S. Agafonov: "No Drastic Turns Expected"]

[Text] Tokyo—After the active demonstrations of pragmatic flexibility in the Soviet stance on the territorial issue at both central and Russian level—displayed in the unequivocal recognition of the existence of a territorial dispute and in the quite frank hints as to the fairness of Japanese demands to resolve this dispute in accordance with Japanese wishes—the mass media and political experts here have been waiting with unconcealed impatience for changes in Tokyo's official position. Or, to be more precise, new nuances in that position, since even inveterate optimists have not predicted a radical turn toward the accelerated improvement of bilateral relations and their rapid all-around development, including primarily the trade and economic field. The innovations were to appear swiftly—before the meetings between the Japanese, USSR, and Russian foreign ministers in New York. As is well known, Pankin's talk with Nakayama was scheduled for Monday and on the eve of this talk a number of Japanese publications printed the expected "leaks" on questions of interest to everyone.

In their fullest form they were published in the business circles' newspaper, NIHON KEIZAI, which reported three fundamental elements that form the basis of the new Japanese approach toward contacts with our country. These are as follows: First, NIHON KEIZAI writes, the Japanese Government has decided to shift the "specific gravity" in the talks on the territorial issue away from the Union government and toward the Russian Government; second, a flexible approach will be employed in talks on granting aid to the USSR and these talks will not necessarily be linked to the territorial problem; third, the Japanese Government intends to broaden the framework of emergency medical and food aid to the Soviet side, but in doing so confirms its restraint and caution in the question of granting financial aid. NIHON KEIZAI also notes that the Japanese foreign minister intends to visit Moscow next month for more detailed talks on the islands' fate.

All three elements are sufficiently clearly formulated to read between the lines: To be frank, the novelty of the Japanese approach resides in the active cultivation of a "Russian channel" on questions of territory in addition to the "central channel," and in the distinctive goodwill gesture regarding emergency aid at the onset of a severe winter (goodwill both insofar as this aid will be offered, and that it will not be tied in with the territorial problem). But for the third point, which dashes hopes for massive Japanese investment in our ailing national economy, the feelings inspired by such change would be more joyous. In its present form, there can be no talk of a sharp U-turn in bilateral relations as this superficial diplomatic facelift does not alter the essence of these relations—they continue to stress the Japanese territorial problem, and this is not affected by the extent of our difficulties.

It is hard to blame the Japanese for this. In fact, for the first time in many decades they have received official confirmation at the highest level that such a problem exists and must be resolved quickly. These statements

were accepted with gratitude, but frankly such statements in their general form mean little to Tokyo. If the Soviet partners say: "It must be resolved quickly," what does that mean? First, how should it be resolved? Second, what does "quickly" mean? Indeed, by local estimates, the economic need of the convulsed Union must be transformed into the political will of Soviet leaders as regards the problem of the disputed territories. It can be surmised that the statement of intent to resolve the problem is viewed in Tokyo as an insufficiently "determined" step, whereas what is needed is something specific, and the Japanese can afford to wait for as long as it takes.

On the other hand, obviously it is not easy for those of our compatriots invested with power and authority to embark on such a U-turn at the present moment. Even against the backdrop of a severe winter and other unfavorable signs. The Japanese can choose to "press" this delicate situation or not—in loose terms, those are the alternatives. Judging by recent reports, for now Tokyo prefers the second option, so no radical U-turns are expected...

Japan's Nakayama To Visit Moscow in October

LD2709230291 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0200 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] As learned by the RUSSIAN INFORMATION AGENCY from well informed sources, Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama is to pay a short working visit to Moscow in the middle of October. It is expected that issues of international politics and bilateral relations, including the issue of concluding a peace treaty, will be discussed in the course of the visit. As is known, the issue of the northern territories is a stumbling block to the signing of such a treaty. The population of the southern Kurils is very much against handing over the islands to Japan.

Taiwan Businesses Investigate Irkutsk Investment

OW0110034491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2158 GMT 30 Sep 91

[From the "Soviet Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A delegation of Taiwanese businessmen, including the leaders of 30-40 major firms, such as China Trust, China Steel and China Petroleum, is going to look into the possibility of heavy investment into the development of mineral deposits in the Irkutsk region (East Siberia). In the first place, the Taiwanese businessmen have taken interest in oil and gas fields, as well as opening new light and electrical engineering industries. Investment guarantees estimated at no less than several hundred million dollars, are expected to be provided by the Taiwanese branch of the Soviet-Far East Non-Governmental Foundation, established this year. Besides, Taiwanese firms vill be able to take part in modernizing aluminium and power plants and retooling hazardous industries, including the paper and pulp factory in Bratsk.

IF [INTERFAX] has learned that the Irkutsk region has already concluded a number of long-term agreements on the shipments of $200 million worth of aluminium, timber and other goods to Taiwan in exchange for foodstuffs, consumer goods and agro-industrial technologies.

S. Korean President's News Conference Viewed

SK2809130791 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 0900 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] ROK President No Tae-u suggested that proposals made by Seoul and Pyongyang for national reunification be lumped together as a single plan. The president said this in a news conference in New York.

President No Tae-u proposed that in the first stage Seoul's plan for a "Korean community" be realized and then that Pyongyang's "confederal republic of Koryo" be realized in the second stage, followed by the third stage in which the issue of political integration of South and North Korea can be discussed.

Concerning this, station commentator Alekseyev writes the following:

President No Tae-u's proposal is merely an idea, and because he does not insist that his idea is perfect, I believe there is no reason to agree with it or to argue against it. I just intend to address the ROK president's point.

You may still remember how Seoul used to react to political proposals made by Pyongyang until recently. Whenever Pyongyang offered such proposals, Seoul instantly turned them down, calling them propaganda tricks.

This is precisely the way Seoul treated Pyongyang's proposal for founding a confederal republic of Koryo. As is known, the upshot of this proposal is to leave intact the different social and political systems built historically in the northern and southern halves of the Korean peninsula within the framework of a confederation.

When Pyongyang offered this proposal in 1987, the South flatly turned it down. Now, however, the ROK president has proposed that the two sides develop joint plans to achieve a phased reunification of the territory based on proposals advanced by the South and North. I believe that such a proposal calling for solutions mutually acceptable has a chance of being realized.

The South and North will hold premier-level talks at the end of October. In those talks, too, the two sides are expected to discuss the country's reunification.

Recently, the DPRK and the ROK have been admitted into the United Nations. As a result, the two sides have been (?provided with a decisive phase for settling the reunification issue).

As noted in President No Tae-u's New York news conference, the entry of the two states into the United Nations has provided favorable preconditions for regular contacts between Seoul and Pyongyang, including the common plans for the reunification of Korea. Of course, this is not easy, because the two sides have accumulated mistrust in the course of South-North confrontation that has continued for decades. To mention that the DPRK and the ROK are still practically in a state of war will suffice.

However, the ice is destined to melt eventually. Talks between the South and North have taken on a working and constructive nature.

I believe that President No Tae-u's new proposal proves this.

West Europe

Gorbachev Holds Talks With Austria's Vranitzky

LD3009231391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1922 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow, 30 Sep (TASS)—USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev met today with Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky. In a frank and friendly conversation, they exchanged opinions on the current situation in Europe, with the accent on events in our country, which has entered a new era in its history.

Mikhail Gorbachev gave a detailed description of the motives and aims of his policy over six years and set out the conclusions which he has come to regarding the putsch and which he is relying upon in his actions at present, a difficult time of transition for the people. The basic aims and main values of a qualitative transformation of the country remain continuing to move toward a new union, creating a new economic space, and overcoming crisis in order to proceed in peaceful, democratic forms and along the path of strengthening legality, law, and order.

Problems connected with the Yugoslav crisis were discussed. The opinion was expressed that the main thing is to act in the spirit of the recent UN Security Council resolution and strictly according to the criteria of the Helsinki process and the Paris Charter, without giving anybody in Yugoslavia grounds to think that anyone from outside favors and supports one of the sides in the conflict. The Yugoslavs themselves must decide the fate of their country. Other states only have the right to render their good offices for the Yugoslavs' own democratic choice by exclusively peaceful means.

The problem of migration was raised in the context of observance of human rights and recognition of the need to form a pan-European democratic and economic space. The problem is a difficult one fraught with serious complications for certain states. Moreover, the president remarked, the correct solution to it lies in the all- around development of the European process and reliance on the new institutions that are planned to be created within its framework.

Stresses 'Vital' Economic Agreement

AU3009203591 Vienna Oesterreich Eins Radio Network in German 1700 GMT 30 Oct 91

[By Susanne Scholl]

[Text] Chancellor Franz Vranitzky was welcomed at Moscow Airport by Ivan Silayev, the man who heads the economic committee and who is expected to find a way out of the crisis in the Soviet Union.

Silayev briefed the chancellor on the planned economic agreement between the former Soviet republics. He said that good progress has been made as far as the agreement is concerned, and it is expected that it can be signed soon.

Chancellor Vranitzky stated that Austria is willing to provide aid to the USSR, in particular in the form of know-how.

The chancellor's delegation includes Economic Minister Schuessel and Finance Minister Lacina. Sources from the chancellor's delegation have stated that the main objective of the talks in Moscow is to clarify who will actually be the competent partners for future talks on economic issues with the USSR, a question that might remain unanswered.

After he talked with Soviet President Gorbachev for more than one and one-half hours, Vranitzky pointed to the traditionally good economic relations between Austria and the USSR. He came to Moscow to explore the economic possibilities, because Austria wants to assist the Soviet Union on its difficult path toward profound reform, Vranitzky stated.

Mikhail Gorbachev repeated what he said before on various occasions during the past few days, that the economic agreement between the republics is vital for all parties involved and that he is convinced that it will be possible to sign the agreement in October.

Views European Integration, EC Plans

AU0110093991 Vienna KURIER in German 1 Oct 91 p 3

[By Otto Klambauer: "Gorbachev: The Go-Ahead For EC Membership"]

[Text] Moscow—The total change in Moscow and the total restructuring of the former Soviet Union have made it possible: Soviet reservations about Austria's EC membership and neutrality are apparently no longer an

issue. Answering a relevant question by KURIER on 30 September, Gorbachev put an end to this tiresome issue by stating: "I consider this step (Austria's EC membership) a sovereign step by Austria, a normal element of the European process. You (in Austria) can decide freely what you want to do and when."

Gorbachev also told KURIER the reason for his position: "The chancellor and I agreed that we must continue on the road that we embarked upon—the increasing integration of the European countries and European institutions, which will obviously come about in two stages. There will be institutions that we will extend, and new institutions will be set up, of which all or only some of the European countries will be members."

Chancellor Vranitzky did not like the question, but he did like Gorbachev's answer. He said that the wrong impression would be created if it was said that Gorbachev had given the go-ahead for Austria's EC membership. He added that EC membership is a free and sovereign decision of Austria. Vranitzky told the Austrian press that "we have given the go-ahead ourselves." He added that Gorbachev did not say a word about neutrality in this context.

Regarding Yugoslavia, Vranitzky said that Gorbachev also agreed with Vienna's position that internationalization is the only possible way to give up the use of force and seek political solutions.

Gorbachev said that he was hopeful about the restructuring of the Soviet Union. He also warned about too much hurry in disarmament. On 1 October, Vranitzky will meet with Yeltsin's deputy, Rutskoy.

Asserts Importance of Union

LD3009191691 Moscow TASS in English 1900 GMT 30 Sep 91

[By diplomatic correspondent Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow, September 30 (TASS)—Following his meeting with Austrian Federal Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, in response to journalists' questions about the signing of a new Union treaty and an economic treaty, President Mikhail Gorbachev said it is essential to make an accelerated headway towards a Union treaty, which would reflect and seal new realities and new economic relationships. This is a good basis for resolving many problems, he said.

Gorbachev believes that these treaties could be signed mainly in October. "Not all republics will sign them at once but the process will begin".

A new Union treaty must take into account realities that have taken shape after the putsch. But, as the president put it, it is a question of "a union of sovereign states, a federal state, not some amorphous entity".

"People see that already now the upsetting of cooperation between republics has resulted in very serious losses as regards both human rights, the economy and people's life. It is essential to support everything positive, to democratise and de-centralise the union."

Gorbachev emphasised that he is a convinced advocate of a union. If society does not accept his convictions and positions, he stated, "I will immediately resign from my post, because without integration the country would be faced with a break-up. This would be a fatal road. I shall not associate myself with such an approach".

Together with Russia's President Boris Yeltsin, Gorbachev had promised republican leaders to give their considerations about a new treaty on the union of sovereign states. "We shall express our common stand in the next few days," Gorbachev told journalists.

Rapid Reply to Bush Plan Unnecessary

AU3009221091 Vienna ORF Television Network in German 2100 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Susanne Scholl report, including interview with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow on 30 September; Gorbachev statements in Russian with superimposed German translation—recorded]

[Text] Tonight's dinner for Austrian Chancellor Vranitzky in the Kremlin was hosted by Ivan Silayev. Among other things, Silayev pointed to the great economic and scientific importance of the joint space project.

Subsequently, Silayev left Moscow for Kazakhstan. In the Kazakh capital, Alma-Ata, he is due to meet the majority of the presidents of the 15 former Soviet republics for talks on a new economic agreement and a new union treaty.

The future of the former Soviet Union was the main subject in the talks between Gorbachev and Vranitzky this afternoon. After the talks, the Soviet president stated:

[Gorbachev] We must preserve the Union. Of course, there has to be profound democratization, and we must decentralize and create more room to maneuver, not only as far as political reforms are concerned but also in the sphere of the economy, the market. Yet we have to preserve this market—that will be of advantage for all of us. The final disintegration would be the death of all of us. I therefore repeat that in case one should proceed along such a course, I do not want to have anything to do with it.

[Scholl] In your capacity as president of the Union, do you not think that it is necessary to quickly respond in concrete terms to the U.S. disarmament proposal?

[Gorbachev] No, I do not think so. This issue does not call for a rapid response. First of all, we have to give much thought to such an important, major initiative.

[Scholl] When will it be possible to give a concrete answer?

[Gorbachev] We have agreed with the U.S. President that our foreign ministers will establish contacts. Many questions regarding the details and nuances of the initiative remain to be settled. After all, this is a unilateral American initiative, which we have to study thoroughly. This should not prevent the United States, however, from implementing the steps it announced. On the contrary, that would be an excellent example for all.

Gorbachev Greets French University Founding

LD3009225891 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1600 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Now I would like to acquaint you with the text of the greetings by the USSR president on the occasion of laying the foundation stone of the French University in Moscow. The message says that the new generation of our young people is to live in our new society, which will not be constrained by the previous monopoly on truth. Old illusions and delusions will fade into the past. Our return to the world community also envisages the restoration of European education, of which French and Russian culture were always a part. This is what the message of greetings from the USSR president says.

More on Greek Denial of CPSU Money Laundering

LD0110025191 Moscow TASS in English 1827 GMT 30 Sep 91

[By correspondent Vladimir Malyshev]

[Text] Athens September 30 TASS—"Reports about the 'laundering' of the Soviet Communist Party (CPSU) money are a big lie. I most categorically deny the possibility of our involvement of this kind of operations," Jannis Mavromatis, president of the Athens-based firm Vek and former member of the Greek Communist Party (KKE) Central Committee, told TASS.

The KKE is the main shareholder of the Vek and Vet companies and also has a small amount of shares in the Piraeus-based Transorient Shipping and Trading Company, Mavromatis said.

At the same time he firmly denied Greek and Soviet press reports that accused the above mentioned companies of secretly funneling "the dollars of the CPSU and of the Soviet nomenklatura" to Swiss banks via Greece.

The reports also mentioned Mavromatis among persons allegedly being at the head of such underhand operations. A month ago Mavromatis visited the Soviet Union among a KKE official delegation led by KKE General Secretary Alexandra Papariga.

The Communist Party in Greece has its own enterprises, engages in business, and there is absolutely nothing surprising or unlawful about this, Mavromatis said.

"All other political parties in Greece have similar enterprises to finance their own activities. All our incomes are fully open. We have absolutely nothing to conceal," he added.

Mavromatis believes that commercial activity of firms connected with the KKE has been of much benefit to the Soviet Union and Greece and promoted the development of Greek-Soviet economic relations. This activity was absolutely legal and fully abided with both Greek and Soviet laws, he said.

Incidentally, in Greece, there are very rigid norms of currency regulation and therefore it is impossible to imagine that someone could covertly funnel large sums of money into or out of the country, Mavromatis said.

Unfortunately, he added, over the past two years, the scope of trade operations with the Soviet Union has been at a rather low level owing to the known difficulties being experienced by the Soviet side.

"The Soviet foreign-trade association raznoexport already owes about 8-10 million dollars to our firms and their partners alone," Mavromatis said.

"It was precisely for talks on economic issues that I visited the Soviet Union among the KKE delegation, because I personally am a holder of the shares of Vek and Vet companies. But I cannot say that the trip was very resultative.

"The Greek Government is now holding talks with a view to granting a credit of 100 million dollars to the Soviet Union so that it could repay debts to Greek exporters. Maybe, in that case our economic contacts will become revitalised," Mavromatis said.

Kohl Envisions Europe of 'Cooperation and Peace'

LD3009231891 Moscow TASS in English 1451 GMT 30 Sep 91

[By correspondent Sergey Sosnovskiy]

[Text] Bonn September 30 TASS—The failure of the coup in the USSR offers unique chances to all Europeans and these chances should be used in order to create a Europe of the 21st century as a continent of cooperation and peace, a continent where basic human rights are observed everywhere, as well as the rights of ethnic and religious minorities and the right of nations to self-determination, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl told the annual meeting of the German newspaper publishers' union in Bonn today.

We hope that cardinal changes in the Soviet Union had drawn the final line under the era of totalitarianism in Europe, the chancellor stressed. "I am confident that the day is not far away also for the peoples of Czechoslovakia when they, through peace and self-determination, will find their way of return to Europe." Kohl said.

If the reform process which has begun in Central, East and South European countries slows down or stalls, this will entail fatal consequences for all of us.

Because of this, the chancellor said, Western support of reforms in these countries is a top priority task. Kohl called for intensifying Western efforts in this direction. "It is inadmissible to have new boundaries spring up in the centre of Europe—this time between poverty and wealth," he stressed.

Russian State Secretary Meets Swedish Ambassador

LD0110023691 Moscow TASS in English
2102 GMT 30 Sep 91

[By unidentified correspondent]

[Text] Moscow September 30 TASS—State Secretary of the Russian Federation Gennadiy Burbulis on Monday met Daniel Tarschus, member of the Swedish parliament and chairman of the Liberal Group of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and Carl Otto Berner, Swedish ambassador to the Soviet Union.

In a frank conversation they discussed matters concerning the continuity of relationships in view of the recent elections to the Swedish parliament, issues of international politics, and Russia's foreign policy course.

The two sides touched upon the topics of a new style of Russian diplomacy and non-traditional forms of contacts at the international level.

Special attention during the conversation was given to the development of Russia's cooperation in the Council of Europe.

Latin America & Caribbean

Cuban Troop Withdrawal Talks To Begin in Oct

LD3009223791 Moscow TASS in English
2037 GMT 30 Sep 91

[By diplomatic correspondent Andrey Surzhanskiy]

[Text] Moscow September 30 TASS—Soviet-Cuban talks on the withdrawal of the Soviet military training brigade from Cuba will open in the last 10 days of October following the completion of the fourth congress of the Cuban Communist Party, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Valery Nikolayenko told TASS today. He headed the Soviet delegation at the consultations of the two countries' foreign policy establishments that ended in Havana late last week.

The initiative for the stage-by-stage withdrawal of the Soviet brigade from Cuba is known to have been put forward in September by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who said "this step is meant to help take further measures to ease tensions around Cuba."

Nikolayenko said the principal goal of the consultations was to explain the political context of the Soviet initiative, which is not of an anti-Cuban nature and is aimed at creating more favourable conditions for the development of Cuba and for dispelling tensions around it.

Describing the atmosphere of consultations, Nikolayenko said the Cuban side was at first "under some emotional impression" but then met with understanding the USSR's readiness to develop bilateral relations on the friendly but de-ideologized foundation.

Nikolayenko said the specific timetable for the withdrawal of the Soviet brigade would be defined at the forthcoming talks. However, he did not rule out that some part of it can be moved out as early as in 1991. Despite the small strength of the Soviet contingent in Cuba—2,800 servicemen and a total of about 4,000 people including family members—at point will be a stage-by-stage withdrawal. [sentence as received]

After the consultations in Cuba, Nikolayenko met representatives of the U.S. Administration. He noted the U.S. did not directly tie the withdrawal of the Soviet brigade from Cuba to the dismantling of the U.S. military base in Guantanamo. Nikolayeno believes this linkage is unrealistic at present, mindful of tense U.S.-Cuban relations. However, he thinks "approaches towards decreasing military activity in Guantanamo are shaping." The U.S. confirmed it does not intend to use the USSR's moves to harm Cuba's security interests.

Speaking about reforming Soviet-Cuban relations, Nikolayenko called for switching them to a mutually beneficial foundation and shunning fabulous subsidies. He said Cuba could work with specific republics and enterprises to mutual benefit.

Cuban Party Congress Preparations Reported

PM2709110991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
19 Sep 91 Union Edition p 4

[By correspondent A. Kamorin: "Closed-Doors Congress"]

[Excerpts] Havana—The election of delegates to the Fourth Communist Party Congress, which is to open 10 October in Santiago de Cuba, the island's "eastern capital," has ended in Cuba. [passage omitted]

The preparations for the fourth congress have been full of quite dramatic aspects. It was announced back in March of last year, when it was said that the forum would take place in the first half of this year. So-called preparatory assemblies were held throughout the country to collect Communists' suggestions; labor collectives were, as is customary, on the point of mounting a precongress watch, when an unexpected lull ensued. The first half of the year passed by all right, but not a word about the date of the congress. This gave rise to a mass of rumors and comments in the Western press. Some spoke of a struggle of trends and sharp disagreements in the top

party spheres, while others said that the Communist Party simply had nothing to say to the people following the elimination of socialism in East Europe.

The reasons for the delay remained unknown, but on 11 June the date was finally announced. [passage omitted]

The preparations are complete, and passions have subsided, as it were. Recently, however, I learned of a circumstance which, I believe, might give rise to even more rumors than the peripeteias over fixing the date of the forum. Rumors had long been going around Havana that the congress might be of a closed or, as people here say, "internal" nature. It turns out that it will be. Unlike the three previous ones, it will not be attended by foreign delegations. Nor will foreign journalists travel to Santiago de Cuba. What is more, special correspondents who might come to the island to cover the forum's work will not be accredited to the congress. This gives a certain advantage to those who are permanently accredited here, although we too will have to content ourselves with information on Cuban television, which, local functionaries have told me, will relay "almost everything." It only remains to be seen which will be more important here: the "everything" or what will be left outside the "almost..."

TASS Observer on U.S.-Cuba Relations

LD2809030791 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1810 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Commentary by TASS observer Gennadiy Petrov]

[Text] TASS news agency observer Gennadiy Petrov discusses the problem of settling relations between the United States and the Republic of Cuba, and this is what he writes.

Many politicians who are interested in ridding the planet of seats of tension conclude that the permanent hostility between the United States and Cuba that dates from the times of the cold war must give place to normal intergovernmental relations characteristic of the present epoch on the world scene. President Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela has told the United Nations General Assembly that Cuba must open itself to the universal concept of democracy and the United States must open itself to dialogue to put an end to the sanctions that can no longer be justified.

As for the Cuban approaches to the problems of more democracy in society, that is the Cubans' internal affair, of course. The continuing tension around the island that is fuelled by the long American economic blockade, the presence of the United States naval base at Guantanamo, Cuba, and the troop maneuvers that America holds in the Caribbean don't at all work for peace and quiet or prompt Cuba to think about ways of making its society more democratic. In this connection the decision to withdraw a Soviet military brigade from Cuba is undoubtedly aimed at easing the situation around the island, because this move virtually deprives the Pentagon of arguments in favor of continuing a policy of confrontation.

The time has come for the United States to reciprocate. The White House, however, has not displayed goodwill so far. The United States defense secretary, Dick Cheney, said in a recent interview with the London JANE'S DEFENSE WEEKLY that the Americans are not going to withdraw from Guantanamo. The paper WASHINGTON TIMES has explained why. It claims that this base has a regional significance that goes beyond the framework of counteracting the Soviet presence in Cuba.

As for the economic blockade that has been lasting for almost 30 years and heavily damaged American businessmen as well as ordinary Cubans, the discriminatory actions can even be whipped up. Some congressmen have even suggested forbidding the vessels heading for Cuba to call at American ports, and they demand freezing the issue of American visas to Cubans for an indefinite period of time. The wish not only to preserve but also build up the economic isolation of the island clearly clashes with the (?post)-confrontation period in international relations. That's why the forthcoming United Nations discussion of the Cuban blockade appears timely indeed.

Foreign Ministry Hails Salvadoran Peace Progress

LD2909135591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1602 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow, 27 Sep (TASS)—"The week now ending has been marked by a number of events that give cause to hope that the road to the ultimate unblocking of the protracted armed confrontation in Central America may be opened in the immediate future," a statement by a USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman, circulated here, says.

"This applies, above all, to the accords reached at the talks held in New York in recent days between Alfredo Cristiani, the president of El Salvador, and the leadership of that country's insurgent movement, which lay the foundation for the fighters of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front to participate without discrimination in the domestic political processes of that Central American state," the document says. "The Soviet Union welcomes these accords and believes that their attainment is the result of the mature, responsible approach to the subject of the country's future displayed by the two opposing parties. At the same time, we think it necessary to note the constructive part played in this process by the United Nations and Javier Perez de Cuellar, its secretary general, at whose initiative this meeting took place and who proposed for the consideration of its participants a procedure for the discussion of the main points on the agenda which, to a large extent, predetermined a positive outcome for it."

"We share fully Javier Perez de Cuellar's opinion that the accords achieved remove the negotiating process from the dead end, and we support his call to the government and the insurgents to make the necessary efforts to reach early agreement on matters connected with a cease-fire and with overcoming the differences of approach to the other aspects of a peace settlement that remain unresolved," the document notes. "As before, the Soviet side is prepared to do all it can to help and support the quest for this goal."

In the same week, another round of talks between the government and insurgents of Guatemala ended in the Mexican capital. The participants in the meeting did not manage to reach any specific decisions. At the same time, the general constructive mood of the two opposing parties and their agreement to continue the peace dialogue as early as mid-October this year give grounds to hope that the necessary conditions for an end to the armed confrontation will ultimately come about in that country, too, the USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman concluded.

UN Meeting Focuses on Cease-Fire

LD2909095791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1432 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] UN, 27 Sep (TASS)—Meetings took place at the UN headquarters on 26 September between V.D. Nikolayenko, USSR deputy minister of foreign affairs, and C. Pacas, Salvadoran minister of foreign relations; J. Handal, a member of the main command of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front; and A. de Soto, the personal representative of the UN secretary general on a Central American settlement.

The Soviet representative congratulated these parties on the signing on the previous day of a New York agreement that clears the way for a definitive settlement in El Salvador. He emphasized the attainment of this significant breakthrough in talks had been possible thanks to the political will of both sides in El Salvador, as well as to the vigorous intermediary activities of the UN secretary general and his personal representative. The Salvadorean representative, and also A. de Soto, expressed their gratitude for the cooperation of the USSR and of other countries in ensuring that progress was made along the path toward a settlement.

During the talks it was emphasized that it is important to preserve the momentum of the talks process with the aim of resolving the remaining problems and of achieving a cease-fire. The Soviet side expressed its readiness to further encourage the ending of the conflict and the establishment of a lasting peace in El Salvador.

Political & Social

Gorbachev Threatens Resignation If Union Crumbles

LD3009202591 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Interview with USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev by unidentified journalists in Moscow on 30 September; from the "TV Inform" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Gorbachev] People already see that the upheavals in the interaction between republics have resulted in very serious losses regarding both human rights and the economy. What is the economy? If today resources from one republic are not delivered to another republic, factories will stop operating and families are left without pay. Is this life? Is this life? Can we carry on with these discussions and develop these philosophical concepts while disregarding the extent to which these concepts tally with life and to what extent, on the whole, they can improve this life? I think that we must support everything that is positive, we must democratize and decentralize our union, and provide more oxygen, not only through reforming the union but also through the market, and it must be preserved so it can function.

We all will gain a lot. Therefore I am a convinced champion and can confirm once again that if I see that my convictions, my point of view, my position are not accepted by society, I will leave my post immediately, because disintegration and break-up are a path of doom for the country. I will not subscribe to such an approach. I will iterate this point every time I am asked this question.

[Journalist] And are you going to submit this (?separately), both the economic and the other one?

[Gorbachev] I must say this: Only today we spoke with Boris Nikolayevich. We promised the leaders of republics to present our considerations regarding the new treaty on a union of sovereign states. We already have what we will tell them. Within the next few days we will state our common position. It is almost as follows....[sentence incomplete as heard]

Gorbachev, Yeltsin To Announce Union Treaty Stand

OW3009222391 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1930 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev, speaking to "INTERFAX" correspondent Vyacheslav Terekhov, announced that the future structure of the union state was the topic of his discussions on Monday with RSFSR President Boris Yeltsin.

Mr. Gorbachev commented that he and the Russian president had agreed to give an assessment of their thoughts on the new Treaty of the Union of Sovereign States to the leaders of each of the union republics in the near future. "We do have something to say and we will make our common position known to them in the very near future", he added. Mr. Gorbachev emphasised that the questions of the relations between the centre and the republics have been posed in a completely different fashion in the new proposal.

The new Union Treaty will differ from the one to have been signed in August in that it takes account of the new realities, said President Gorbachev. At the same time he noted that the treaty still spoke of a union state and not of some sort of amorphous formation.

"And of course there can be no talk of the restoration, in whatever form, of crude interference in the lives of the peoples of those republics that sign the treaty", he said.

Mr. Gorbachev went on to state that he could not foresee the union state in the future without fundamental reform of its internal life as a whole and without the development of market structures.

Responding to a question by the "INTERFAX" correspondent, the Soviet president said that he did not regard the recent misunderstandings between the republics over territorial issues "as evidence of Russian imperialist ambitions". Previously all border adjustments occurred within the framework of a single state and were not considered to be of monumental importance. The issue has become much more controversial with the possibility of republics seceding from the USSR.

"I cannot accept the accusations of Russian imperialist ambitions, either as President or as a Russian. I do not believe that the Russian people are no longer interested in living alongside other peoples. On the contrary, the fact that Russians everywhere are supporting the union goes only to illustrate their determination to work their way out of the crisis, into which our country has fallen, by common effort", said Mr. Gorbachev.

The president rejected the suggestion of the "INTERFAX" correspondent that there had recently been "a spate of accusations that the centre was trying to subjugate Russia and the other union republics" (these accusations were aimed in particular at Ivan Silayev, the leader of the Committee for the Management of the National Economy). Mr. Gorbachev said that there had been a lack of understanding. He said that certain people had probably decided that "somebody wanted to create mechanisms for new relations and bind the republics to them before the signing of the new Union Treaty and the Economic Agreement". However, the president stressed, this was not the case.

Gorbachev Comments on UN Senior Citizens Day

LD3009230491 Moscow TASS in English 2022 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow September 30 TASS—An international senior citizens day is for the first time marked on October 1, 1991, by a decision of the United Nations General Assembly.

"I support the U.N. initiative. To begin with, I want to address our own senior citizens, of whom there are more than 50 million in this country, with words of deep and heartfelt gratitude," Gorbachvev told TASS in this connection.

"They have done immeasurably much for our country, for our society. Whatever our attitude to the past, this contribution by older generations cannot be depreciated either by leaders' errors or by misapprehensions of the past years," Gorbachev said.

"Those who nowadays, in a critical ardour, question senior citizens' services, should bear in mind that it was these senior citizens that brought up and educated the generation that has become the motive power of current transformations in our society.

"Rising prices and contraction of employment make the elderly the least protected section of the population socially. Neither can one fail to take into account the lack of their psychological preparedness for new living conditions.

"We see this and do everything we can in this respect," the president pointed out. "A law envisaging a rise in pension amounts was adopted in 1990. The USSR Supreme Soviet has worked out a bill 'on basic principles of the social protection of senior citizens'.

"Together with republics, to where the centre of social policy is shifting, we shall seek to implement basic ideas aimed at raising the standards of the material security of the elderly, at expanding the range of benefits and free services that they can enjoy and at securing their absolute right to work if they so wish.

At the same time, Gorbachev said, "we must be realists. We must honestly say that the crisis-ridden economy does not allow us to radically improve the material position of the elderly soon. Under these conditions, we must utilise all possible sources to help them.

"I think there is, undoubtedly, a difference in the perception of the surrounding world by various generations. This difference can become particularly painful at historical turning-points, such as the one our society lives in now.

"However, this difference should not be exaggerated. There is a great number of values that bring people of various generations together. I disagree with those who assert that the present older generations have nothing to pass on to younger generations or that they allegedly lack the necessary historical experience, and so on and so forth.

"The senior generation possesses many things that they not only can but simply must hand down to younger generations. These are, first of all, courage, dignity, perseverance, industriousness, and other traits that they have retained over the years in far more complex conditions, not to mention their accumulated knowledge and professional experience. Younger generations have much to learn from our senior citizens.

"No, senior citizens should not be viewed as a burden to society. We need their help and support, just as they need ours," Gorbachev said in conclusion.

Primakov Appointed Head of Foreign Intelligence

LD3009174691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1733 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow, 30 Sep (TASS)—Academician Yevgeniy Maksimovich Primakov was today appointed head of Soviet foreign intelligence by decree of the USSR president. It is planned to make the Soviet intelligence service into a separate state agency.

Views Role of Intelligence

LD3009230191 Moscow TASS in English 2110 GMT 30 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondents Leonid Vorontsov and Vsevolod Kukushkin]

[Text] Moscow September 30 TASS—It is a very important service, the task of which is not to work for a certain political structure or certain persons, but to defend the interests of the state, Yevgeniy Primakov told TASS after his appointment as the first deputy chairman of the Soviet State Security Committee and head of the Soviet foreign intelligence service.

In the opinion of Primakov, intelligence should be its best to prevent the return of the "cold war". It should create favourable conditions for the development of the economy, scientific and technological progress in the country.

It should be democratised and open to a possible extent.

Academician Yevgeniy Primakov was informed of the new appointment in his Kremlin study. Judging by everything, it did not come as a surprise.

Nevertheless, he immediately told TASS that he is not ready to discuss details of his future work and did not want to make hasty statements. He intends to meet KGB chief Vadim Bakatin to consider a number of issues connected with the intelligence service reorganisation.

Primakov does not see any contradiction in the fact that an academician is appointed head of an intelligence structure, since, in his opinion, it is an analytical mechanism bound to examine and synthesize information. "It is also a science", said Primakov.

Primakov makes an impression of a man clearly understanding his tasks and having a considerable amount of data both from the intelligence and about it. The data is diverse: from official to literary.

He said he likes political detective stories and named John Le Carre among authors whose books he enjoys reading.

The intelligence head should be a politician and follow a course to defend the interests of state regardless any corporative or group stands, Primakov believes.

The academician, whose nomination came as a sensation—never before in the Soviet Union has the intelligence service been headed by a scientist—thinks that results of intelligence work in certain spheres should be made public and printed in open press.

Judging by everything, although Primakov has not formulated it clearly, he will try to make a new image for this department which, naturally, will preserve in its work many methods created by world intelligence services over centuries.

Moreover, Primakov considers it possible to invite various experts to fulfil certain analytical research. The experts will not become staffers of the organisation. However, Primakov does not deny the need for traditional "undergrounders" existence.

Commentary Examines Political Consultative Council

PM3009133191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Sep 91 Union Edition p 1

[Commentary by Vladimir Nadein: "Last Chance for the 'Men of the Sixties': New Members of USSR President's Political Consultative Council Named"]

[Text] A Political Consultative Council under the USSR President has been created. On 25 September Mikhail Gorbachev appointed Vadim Bakatin, Yevgeniy Velikhov, Nikolay Petrakov, Gavriil Popov, Yuriy Ryzhov, Anatoliy Sobchak, Eduard Shevardnadze, Aleksandr Yakovlev, and Yegor Yakovlev members of the council.

The Political Consultative Council does not set itself the task of being a decision-making organ. It will be primarily a consultative organ.

President Gorbachev has appointed the first members of the recently created USSR Political Consultative Council. They are the country's most prominent democratic leaders, well known to almost every citizen by sight, by forename and patronymic, and most of all by their solid political reputations.

No longer the general secretary, having rid himself by the will of fate of the need to keep one eye on a Central Committee which hated its master, M.S. Gorbachev has for the first time gained the right to freely choose his comrades in arms. But this time it is to help him overcome what is almost the most complex part of his political path.

The choice of a president free for the first time fell on the "men of the sixties." All the new council members, from former party oblast committee first secretary V.V. Bakatin to Yegor Yakovlev, thrice expelled for disobedience from modest positions in party journalism, belong to that idealistic generation.

They have all completed a long and morally agonizing transition from fierce faith in Leninist dogmas to the ideals of human rights. History will hardly give these people another opportunity for an evolution of world outlook, another opportunity to embody their ideals in life.

Even though the limits of the Political Consultative Council's powers are outlined by its actual title, it is clear that its real influence will be determined only in the course of practical work. Each successful step will increase the council's power, each failure will be a setback, returning it to a featureless uncertainty from which neither the handpicked Presidential Council nor the Security Council, conceived as a fig leaf for the undeclared Pavlov-Kryuchkov state of emergency, could rescue it.

It may be said with confidence that the new members' names give grounds for hoping that the new-born organ will be effective. President Gorbachev shares that hope, as demonstrated by the instruction to E.A. Shevardnadze, A.N. Yakovlev, and A.A. Sobchak to head Union delegations at talks with Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia respectively.

Their democratic reputation will undoubtedly serve all three leaders well when it comes to creating an atmosphere of trust at talks. However, the atmosphere does not lower the level of unprecedented complexity of the meetings that are ahead.

The list of problems in itself threatens long months, if not years, of diplomatic confrontation. The rapid withdrawal of the Soviet troops, on which the Baltic governments are insisting, will cut an enormous hole in the circle of Soviet defense. The Russian minority must be protected by law. The USSR's foreign currency debt must be fairly shared. The recognition of the indestructibility of the Lithuanian border threatens to displease the Belorussians and Poles. The Estonians are laying claim to part of the Pskov region.

And all this will be examined in the context of the ability of the democracy in this country to live up to its own expectations. It is no longer Pugo and Yazov but Sobchak and Shevardnadze who will bear the historic responsibility for observing the national interests of the "Soviet space" or, more precisely, Russia.

Yazov had unworthy but tried and tested arguments in discussion. Shevardnadze has noble and attractive arguments but ones which have still not demonstrated their effectiveness in our insane reality.

But it is effectiveness which will be decisive in the new council's work. Noble intentions are not a justification and the biblical maxim "by their works shall ye know them" will triumph totally.

The USSR President will entrust the near hopeless economy to the initiative and knowledge of N.Ya. Petrakov, G.Kh. Popov, and Yu.A. Ryzhov. There can be no doubt that this choice will be announced in the near future. Just as there can be no doubting the role of Ye.V. Yakovlev who in the immediate months at least will provide M.S. Gorbachev's main guidance in assessing the problems of the mass media.

The composition of the Presidential Consultative Council definitely demonstrates the USSR President's switch to the positions of liberal democracy. Unlike V.V. Bakatin, Ye.P. Velikhov, and other colleagues, however, this is by no means the last chance for M.S. Gorbachev himself.

By giving what are undoubtedly the best of the democrats real opportunities to distinguish themselves in the state sphere, the USSR president is beginning by playing fair. The country's problems are so complex that their solution can only bring glory to the successful politicians among generations to come. And the President will rightly share that glory with them.

However, the failure of the democrats, ruinous for them personally, need not be the final act for Gorbachev himself. Ultimately he has taken a natural step: He has given the main roles on the political stage to those people considered by the overwhelming majority to be the best for the job today.

Sobchak on Position on Council

LD3009152991 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak said he has agreed to participate in the USSR president's political council if he can defend independent positions there. He said in a RUSSIAN INFORMATION AGENCY interview that the political council is a temporary body supporting the old power structure. The council should adopt decisions on the major issues, the most important of which are creating a new union of sovereign states, signing the Union treaty, developing the new text of the constitution, and preparing and holding new elections. In each case, Sobchak intends to defend the position he considers to be correct.

The first sittings of the council have already been held, and up to now—in his words—it has been possible to find common ground on decisions.

Reform Movement Urges Decisive Economic Measures

OW0110022691 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2030 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Political Council of the Movement for Democratic Reform [MDR] has spoken out in favour of decisive measures aimed at the creation of a fully fledged civilised market. It is the only way to prevent the complete collapse of an economy going through a major crisis, states the Political Council's declaration. "We have reached the point where the fate of every political movement, the sovereignty and independence of the republics and peoples, and democracy itself all depend directly on the economic situation".

Therefore, the Political Council thinks it essential to urge that the negotiations now being held on the conclusion of an inter-republican economic agreement not be sacrificed to political ambitions and slogans.

The declaration continues, "In today's circumstances negotiations on economic cooperation between the republics must be conducted honestly and openly. It is quite clear that any attempt to pull the wool over another's eyes or to make unilateral gains would result in an immediate response from economic partners".

The MDR Political Council considers of paramount importance the task of ascertaining which republics wish to remain in the "rouble zone", which republics wish to abandon it and whether it will continue to exist at all. In any event, the transfer to national currencies should proceed according to an agreed plan. This is vital for the exchange rates of the republican currencies. The conclusion of an inter-republican pay agreement is also essential. It would be the basic coordinating factor in the fiscal policy of those republics which make up the Soviet Union. Any attempt to solve financial problems unilaterally would result in a chaotic migration of cash, tearaway inflation, rocketing price rises and a fall in the standard of living in all regions and the disintegration of industrial communications.

A.N. Yakovlev Meets Komsomol Congress Delegates

PM3009143791 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 28 Sep 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "'Komsomol Members Moved Further Ahead in Their Reforms...' Prologue To Komsomol Congress Is Meeting Between Delegates and A.N. Yakovlev"]

[Text] Aleksandr Nikolayevich talked about his vision of the current situation in the country and stressed that the results of reform had exceeded his expectations...

Paying his due to the courage and steadfastness shown by young people during the August events, Yakovlev said that this attitude toward democratic processes should be valued and strengthened in every possible way... Complaining that until recently the leaders of perestroyka had been unable to organize contacts with young people, Aleksandr Nikolayevich stated that, as one of the leaders of the Movement for Democratic Reforms, he considers this task to be one of the most important.

Aleksandr Nikolayevich rejected the attempts by some Komsomol [All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League] functionaries to obtain from the influential politician a recipe for building a new youth organization, and advised them to think things over and decide for themselves.

Answering Komsomol members' questions, Yakovlev said in particular:

"Yes, the prerequisites for the reform of the Komsomol are indeed in place. After all, when the complete monopoly of power enjoyed by party organizations over the Komsomol came to an end, Komsomol members moved further ahead in their reforms. I would recall a very typical fact—the way in which [Komsomol Central Committee First Secretary] Vladimir Zyukin's speech was greeted at the 28th CPSU Congress when he attempted to say something in defense of the democratic development of the youth movement... There was noise and whistling, with people calling for him to leave the rostrum... That was the attitude."

Komsomol Congress Ends; Declaration Adopted

LD3009105891 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1645 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] [No dateline as received]—Delegates at the 22d All-Union Lenin Young Communist League [Komsomol] extraordinary congress, which finished its work in Moscow today, decided to send letters addressed to the USSR and Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] presidents and chairmen of republics' parliaments with a demand to stop the process that has started in some republics of "the forcible estrangement" of the union's property in favor of these republics. They claim that these questions should be resolved "only according to the law."

In connection with the resolution "On the property of Union and interrepublican public organizations on RSFSR territory" passed by the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, the congress adopted an appeal to the Presidium of the Russian Parliament with a request to resolve the issue of fair distribution of all-Union property of the organisation with regard to all republican unions of the former VLKSM.

The congress made the decision to transfer Komsomol property to its legal succesors—republican organizations—in accordance with an approved share of each subject of the former Komsomol federation.

It was decided to form a temporary coordinating council for a transitional period, which will include leaders of republican unions. The temporary coordinating council will coordinate activity of republican organizations and monitor their implementation of the resolutions of the 22d Komsomol Congress.

The congress terminated activity of the VLKSM organization in the armed forces, border and internal troops. The apparatuses of central Komsomol bodies will be liquidated within 10 months.

The congress adopted a "declaration of the 22d Komsomol Congress" which stresses the need to preserve humanitarian, cultural and social relations between young people in all republics and states; the possibility of forming a national youth movement was also noted.

Demographics Facing Unfavorable Economic Factors

OW0110034191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2158 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Article by the Makroekon Center in Moscow: "USSR Population: Forecast for 1992"; from the "Soviet Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The demographic situation in the USSR will be exposed to quite a few unfavourable economic and social factors next year.

In 1992 population growth rates will be down to 0.4% as compared with 0.5% this year. The number of migrants forced to abandon their permanent homes due to growing ethnic problems in various republics is expected to total 1 million. No less than 600 thousand will leave for abroad. The slump in production and the structural reorganization of the economy will push unemployment up to no less than 4 million.

SHARE OF MUSLIMS KEEPS GROWING

Against a background of generally low population growth rates (at the end of next year the country's population will total 291.1 million people—1.3 million more than now), population growth rates in the Ukraine will total 0.2 percent per 10,000 residents and in Tajikistan (Central Asia)—31.3%. The share of Muslim republics in the USSR's population (without taking into account the secession of the Baltic states) will grow from 20.1% in 1991 to 20.3% next year.

The country's able-bodied population will grow by 300 thousand. As it was the case in the previous years, the entire increase will take place in the republics of Central Asia, in Kazakhstan and in Azerbaijan, where the problem of unemployment is already very serious.

STATE REMAINS CHIEF EMPLOYER

While employment in the government sector of the economy will fall from 115 mln. [million] this year to 111.7 mln. next year (by 2.9%), the number of employees in the private and cooperative sector will grow to 15.3 mln. (by 28% against 1990). However, the expansion of the non-government sector is unlikely to play any significant role in creating jobs in the foreseeable future.

Experts believe that the shortage of labour is aggravated by the low mobility of the population (the absence of a market of housing, restrictions on residence permits in

big cities and the social and economic gaps between various regions of the country are the main reasons).

"MAKROEKON" experts believe that a number of priority measures must be taken to prevent mass unemployment:

—favourable taxation on the money industries invest in creating nev jobs;

—a flexible policy of government grants to unprofitable industries, in particular, in small towns in order to maintain employment;

—conditions for the free movement of people and goods all over the nation, the emergence of a market of housing within the framework of one economic space and the abolition of customs borders between republics, as well as regional buyers' certificates and rationing.

Citizens Polled on Ways To Make More Money

OW2809080191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0719 GMT 28 Sep 91

["Viewpoint: Ten Ways To Get Rich"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] More participants in a poll (26%) carried out by the National Public Opinion Studies Center (VCIOH) in August of this year feel that the best way to increase their material situation for their families would be to either start or broaden one's secondary employment. (It was possible to give different types of answers.)

From every quarter it was proposed to open one's own business.

22% of those polled thought the problem could be solved by changing to a higher paying job.

18% felt that additional earnings would suffice, and 17% suggested working outside the country.

16% said that their wages should be increased.

If it were to increase their value, 11% of the respondents were prepared to be professionally retrained.

6% of those polled preferred material advantages through speculation.

15% of those surveyed did not see any way to better their lives materially.

This poll was taken by 3004 respondents throughout the entire USSR, as reported by the "Data" agency. The margin of error is 3%.

Media & Journalism

Former Gosteleradio Chief Kravchenko Interviewed

PM3009125391 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Sep 91 Single Edition pp 1, 3

["Recent" interview with L.P. Kravchenko, former chairman of the All-Union State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company, by A. Golovenko; place not given: "Days of Putsch. Ostankino Occupied by Troops. But What Did the Television Viewer See? Leonid Kravchenko: 'We All Ended Up Hostages...'"]

[Text] "Democracy in the USSR is celebrating its own wake," I heard recently on a foreign radio station. Well, things are clearer from the outside. For the staffers of PRAVDA and other party newspapers democracy all but ended the day they were closed down and groundlessly accused of "complicity in the coup." For millions of Communists it ended after the hasty "suspension," without trial, of the party's activity and the distraint of its property.

Following the failure of the attempted coup d'etat, a Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic presidential decree removed L. Kravchenko from his post, although he had been appointed by the USSR president. Plenipotentiaries who were issuing instructions on behalf of the Russian leadership even appeared on television before the new chairman of the Gosteleradio [All-Union State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company] had been appointed.

Recently I talked with the out-of-favor chairman, who finds himself out of a job.

"Leonid Petrovich," I suggested, "PRAVDA has expressed publicly its position with regard to the ban. I have nothing with which to reproach myself as a correspondent. Let us try to avoid tones of justification and speak—not so much for the press as to comprehend the situation—about your actions and ours during those crucial days for the destinies of millions."

"Let us try," Leonid Petrovich agreed. "Only I do not know how successful I will be in avoiding intonations of justification. For television and radio were in the very 'thick' of events."

[Golovenko] I will not describe my frame of mind when I learned in the morning that M. Gorbachev "cannot lead" the country. At the morning meeting of the PRAVDA Editorial Board, chaired by Deputy Chief Editor D. Valovoy, our specialists in international affairs maintained that a Western agency was reporting that the USSR president had had a heart attack, others—a stroke. "Let us go to work on the issue," D. Valovoy concluded the meeting. "We must find out what is up with the general secretary..."

The next day we published the documents of the State Committee for the State of Emergency, being obliged to

do so in accordance with the existing laws. But we did not provide any commentaries in support of or against the state of emergency. How did the situation shape up with you?

[Kravchenko] You have probably guessed that those who conceived and carried out this coup were perfectly well aware what a powerful and effective means of influence the radio and television are. Along with TASS we were the chief and almost the only news media on the first day. As regards newspapers, only PRAVDA and IZVESTIYA appeared on the Monday. But their materials had been made up on the Sunday. Therefore it is perfectly natural that the chief role was assigned to us.

They took thorough "care" of us. As early as 0600 on 19 August all the Moscow television and radio broadcasting buildings had been surrounded by tanks and armored personnel carriers. In Ostankino, to where I drove, armed paratroopers were standing at the entrances to the television center. The inner rooms, particularly the studios, were thoroughly controlled by militia details. There were also guys in civilian clothes, whose allegiance was in no doubt.

Your readers were surprised by the gloomy classical music which flowed over the air. But what was to be done—cheer the people with bravura marches or musical video clips? We were given strict orders not to broadcast live programs and to leave just one channel on television and radio. True, I did succeed in keeping the educational channel on television and the "Orpheus" music program on radio.

[Golovenko] There are many lucid minds today which believe that, having received the official documents from the State Committee for the State of Emergency, both you and we should at once have torn them up, declared a protest, resigned, etc.

[Kravchenko] I envy these people who argue with hindsight. On that ill-starred morning, when I received the documents from Politburo Member O. Shenin, nothing was clear. For these were materials signed by the country's top statesmen: the chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, the vice president, the prime minister, the first deputy chairman of the Defense Council, three omnipotent ministers, members of the Security Council... They were not some "black colonels" who had gotten the intention of seizing power. These people already had god-given power. Against whom were we to "fight"? According to the law, the Gosteleradio and also TASS, incidentally, are obliged to broadcast and print documents and official materials signed by top officials.

The only thing that was really worrying was the news of M. Gorbachev's illness...

[Golovenko] As far as I know, the trip which G. Seleznev, our first deputy chief editor, made to the Central Committee for the purpose of shedding light on the question of M. Gorbachev's state of health did not have any success. There were only promises to find out something and tell the newspaper. Did you make any similar attempts, Leonid Petrovich?

[Kravchenko] On the first day I tried to telephone the president's reception room. The phone was silent. Toward midday we and, I believe, you too learned that a statement by the physician treating the president was expected at a news conference. That reassured us for a while: It was nothing serious. The physician was not there, but there was a statement by G. Yanayev. You will remember he said: Gorbachev is my friend, and after recovery he will resume his duties as president.

Alarm mounted within us with every passing hour. And tutelage was not only not easing but intensifying. We were convinced that everything that was being said in conferences, including in my office, was being monitored. Add to this the endless dressings-down over the telephone.

[Golovenko] Was this because of "Swan Lake"?

[Kravchenko] Just imagine, for that too... "To what is it an allusion?" they asked me. They demanded from us cheerful music and patriotic movies. Also on the very first day the "Vremya" program had a reportage on the defense of the "White House" and Yeltsin's statement. That provoked particular ire. Both I and V. Lazutkin, my first deputy, got it in the neck.

[Golovenko] We saw nothing more of the members of the State Committee for the State of Emergency on our television screens after that news conference. But reports directed against them appeared in considerable numbers both on television and, in particular, on the radio. Well, had control weakened among us, Leonid Petrovich?

[Kravchenko] I understand your humor. During those days radio and television staffers really did broadcast reports, comments, and statements by a number of our public organizations and by prominent foreign politicians who disagreed with the actions of the State Committee for the State of Emergency.

There came a time when the KGB announced to me that in connection with the lack of "proper control" on our part more reliable employees would have to be assigned to help with broadcast materials.

I managed to forestall that. But it was clear that the military censors might intercede at any moment. It was important to prevent that.

[Golovenko] Did you try to contact anyone on the Soviet leadership?

[Kravchenko] It was most important to talk with A. Lukyanov. For he was not a member of the State Committee for the State of Emergency. I managed to contact him on the morning of 20 August. Beset by doubts, I asked him to comment on his own televised statement on the Union treaty and to assess the situation in the country. Anatoliy Ivanovich said in reply that he had no wish to "get involved" in this business and had

no time to mount a televised debate in this regard. It was necessary to convene a USSR Supreme Soviet session as quickly as possible. It was vacation time, and deputies were scattered all over the place. There was a danger that we would not secure a quorum. He asked us to announce more frequently on air that the session was being brought forward to 26 August—which we did.

After that conversation I could not get this phrase out of my head: "I have no wish to get involved in this business..." That said a lot. Something more decisive had to be done. Together with D. Biryukov, my deputy, we took a very risky step. We secretly got some foreign television correspondents into the television center through one of the entrances. How we managed to do this in a siege situation is another matter. But the representatives of Western companies used our equipment to transmit the whole truth about the events in Moscow over satellite channels. A number of their reports returned to our country—again via satellites. We also set aside a microwave set for the U.S. CNN Company. We dispatched a mobile television station to the "White House" to ensure that the sittings of the Russian Parliament were shown the next day. On the same day I began insisting through the State Committee for the State of Emergency that the television and radio air be "unfrozen" and that the main television and radio channels be recommissioned. All the television and radio programs appeared 21 August. It is not out of place to mention also the statement which the company's employees issued against the actions of the State Committee for the State of Emergency...

[Golovenko] Leonid Petrovich, we will put to you a question from the sphere of scholasticism. Let us try to model a hypothetical situation: What would have happened if the newspapers, radio, and Central Television had not made public the documents of the State Committee for the State of Emergency?

[Kravchenko] I believe that would have been a very grave mistake verging on a crime. Imagine, in the morning the people of Moscow see tanks, other military hardware, and large military subunits and cannot understand anything. And on radio and television there is calm news from the provinces. Does this mean that we deceived the people? May this not seem a paradox, but thousands of Muscovites moved to defend the "White House" precisely because they had received exhaustive information on what had happened in good time.

No, we could not keep silent. I agree with the jurist who voiced this thought in IZVESTIYA: If both we and you had concealed the introduction of the state of emergency from people, then we could rightfully have been considered accessories to the conspiracy.

[Golovenko] On the afternoon of 20 August I attended the very demonstration outside the "White House" on an assignment for the editorial office. I do not understand anything about military operations, but it seemed to me that this well-defended building could not be taken without blood being shed. I thought: Surely there will not be a madman on the State Committee for the State of Emergency who is capable of issuing the order to move military hardware against these people? And why? In order to arrest the Russian leadership? But you would think that such actions are taken before the announcement of a state of emergency. And yet I would be interested to know whether you issued an order to television cameramen to be present at the "White House" in case it was stormed?

[Kravchenko] Some of our cameramen were there from the first day. I did not and could not issue instructions to film a storming, because, like you, I did not contemplate it. Now one can only guess at whether or not a storming was planned. The investigation will show this. It is known for sure that a curfew was imposed in Moscow as of 2300 on 20 August. This was the most dangerous time, and it was on that night that there were casualties.

[Golovenko] And so, the attempted coup failed. The legitimate president of the USSR was restored to power. Both the heroes of the barricades and the conspirators' accomplices have turned up. Do you not think that your so hasty removal from office is the final chord in the campaign of persecution to which you were subjected from the moment you took up office?

[Kravchenko] Let us not talk about me, for otherwise I will have to take a long time relating a lot about what I have experienced during these months. The newspaper attacks were half the trouble. Things reached the point where I began to be threatened with physical violence. People telephoned my home and my office. In February I was allocated a guard. A constant escort—from the door of my apartment to the door of my office. The same regime was maintained during business trips. And I was watched over particularly closely during the days of the putsch. You can imagine my frame of mind, my family's position...

[Golovenko] Today new people have been placed in the leadership of the Gosteleradio and of other establishments. Everything has been done in greater haste and, so some people believe, on grounds of personal allegiance. Does it not worry you that Central Television will be in a fever and will start intriguing over the air, once again egging us on...?

[Kravchenko] I am very concerned at the real danger that what I call civil war philosophy will appear on the air and in the press. The stating of extreme viewpoints, manifestations of extremism and intolerance toward political opponents—all this can only work up society.

There are 27,000 employees with very different views and convictions on the staff of the television and radio broadcasting company. How are we to achieve concord in the creative process, a balanced approach, and the utmost responsibility—there is the rub.

The one-sidedness and politicization of the air are obvious to me today. The tough line that Russian television pursued on the second channel is being transferred to the first. Before, it was advantageous and convenient to be in opposition. But everything has changed drastically. It is time the winners took a constructive stand.

The company's leaders now have more freedoms and less dependence on the high authorities. I can only envy this. But I would sincerely like to warn against one danger: that television and radio, as well as the press, should not once again become the hostages of ambition and political pressure.

TASS Reviews 1 Oct Central Press

LD0110074391 Moscow TASS in English 0524 GMT 1 Oct 91

["Soviet Press Review"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow October 1 TASS—Today's NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA offers the article "the cold war is over, U.S. is the winner," which comments on the U.S. President George Bush's latest initiative to radically reduce the U.S. nuclear arsenal.

"After the Soviet Union disintegrated under the pressure of arms race, the U.S. Armed Forces have lost a worthy opponent and face a radical military reform," the newspaper says.

Russia, Belorussia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Armenia and Turkmenia completed a draft inter-republican economic agreement in Moscow on the night of September 27, the newspaper reports. It says they "preserved the main ideas proposed by Yavlinskiy's experts" by finding compromises.

The Soviet youth daily KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA publishes reports about the 22nd Emergency Congress of the Soviet Komsomol, which ended in Moscow last week. It disbanded the Komsomol and its central bodies and resolved to replace it with a new youth movement.

Newspapers carry reports about the situation in the Dnester region in Moldova.

The SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA newspaper reports about a rally in front of the city executive council in Dubossary. The Russian minority in the region has urged an end to the dictate from Kishinev to normalise the situation in the region.

"The population of the Dnester region will never support" the regime, which uses sub-machine guns and batons to impose the Romanian order in the region, the newspaper says.

The situation remains tense in Georgia's capital Tbilisi as the confrontation between the republic's President Zviad Gamsakhurdia and the opposition escalates.

Separatism and nationalism infect more and more people like an epidemic, Viktor Goncharov says in the RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA.

He speaks about the situation in the Ukraine after its parliament declared the republic's independence and abolished the Soviet Constitution and Soviet laws in the republic. "The right adventurists from the State Emergency Committee have been replaced by republican left adventurists," Goncharov says.

The Soviet trade union daily TRUD publishes an interview with Arnold Voilukov, deputy head of the Soviet State Bank Board, in which he speaks about the causes and consequences of the money emission in the country.

He said the state printed from 16 to 20 billion new roubles over the summer. In August alone, the money emission was equal to the amount of money issued last year, while the national income dropped by 13 per cent due to the severe economic recession.

At the same time, he said salaries and wages have grown by almost 50 per cent.

The newspaper publishes an article by Vladimir Lobov, chief of the General Staff of the Soviet Army, about a military reform in the country.

He says a new military doctrine should be defensive, single and coalition. Lobov favours a small professional army equipped with advanced military hardware.

Yuriy Rodionov, recently appointed deputy Soviet defence minister for personnel questions, told the Soviet military daily KRASNAYA ZVEZDA the Soviet Armed Forces should be reduced, depoliticised and departicised, that is party structures should be removed from the Armed Forces.

PRAVDA carries an article by Tatyana Samolis, in which she says the Soviet Communist Party's disintegration is the natural end for the organisation, which was the quintessence of the totalitarian state.

"We are getting rid of the monster which suppressed everything and everybody without exception," Samolis said.

She believes the party cannot be renovated, since such attempts only accelerated its break-up.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA offers an article about Russia's possible participation in NATO. "From the economic, political and defence viewpoints, there is no reasonable alternative to Russia's military and political integration with NATO countries. History gives us a unique opportunity to carry out this strategy," the newspaper says.

TRUD, SELSKAYA ZHIZN, RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA and SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA tell about the life of the elderly in the Soviet Union to mark United

Nations International Senior Citizens Day, which is marked in the Soviet Union for first time today.

Economic

State Economic Committee Debates Budget Deficit

PM3009105591 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Sep 91 Union Edition p 1

[Report by R. Lynev: "State Budget Deficit Totals 200 Billion Rubles and Is Not Decreasing"]

[Text] The Committee for the Operational Management of the National Economy was once again in session on Friday. In I. Silayev's absence it was chaired by A. Volskiy. The main issue that the committee tried to settle was how to reduce within the fourth quarter of this year the state budget deficit, which has reached the astronomical figure of 200 billion rubles [R].

There are known to be two ways of reducing it: increasing revenue and reducing expenditure. The day before, USSR Finance Minister V. Rayevskiy reported, specialists from the USSR Ministry of Economics and Forecasting and Finance Ministry went over all items of the budget and said that our expenditure inexorably exceeds income. Like the school experiment where more flows out of the tank through tube "A" than flows in through tube "B." Exerting every effort, the team of specialists in conjunction with republic representatives scraped together a set of measures whereby the R200-billion deficit may be cut by R17 billion by cutting defense and cultural spending. And that's all. It is impossible to do away at breakneck speed with an ailment that has been lodged in an organism for many months.

It is not only defense spending (where virtually everything—from greatcoats to warheads—is becoming more costly) that is the reason for this, but also the scale of the social programs that our people's deputies adopted in the past without realizing one simple thing: It is not a budget that provides more generous funding for butter rather than guns that is good, but one that makes ends meet.

And ends don't meet in our country. This is a long-standing problem. This discrepancy was previously covered by Gosbank [State Bank] credits. It was done bashfully, on the quiet. As of the year before last, this means of plugging holes in the budget was condemned and... legalized. Yes, they said, increase the money supply. Not on an ordinary basis, but by credit. The rate of inflation will apparently slow somewhat as a result. This amounts in actual fact to more of the same. And that is what they are doing. Only spreading it more thinly. What is new in this? What is radical?

A Cabinet session once again instructed the same team from the Ministry of Economics and Forecasting and the Finance Ministry to "run through" the budget and submit new proposals forthwith.

Yavlinskiy on Economic Union Treaty Talks

924A0008A Moscow TRUD in Russian 26 Sep 91 p 2

[Interview with G.A. Yavlinskiy, deputy chairman of the Committee for Operational Management of the Country's Economy, by TRUD political columnist V. Golovachev in Yavlinskiy's office near the Kremlin; date not given: "G. Yavlinskiy: Negotiations Are Proceeding in a Difficult and Painful Way; Representatives of All Republics Are Considering the Draft Economic Union Treaty"]

[Text] **Representatives of sovereign states—the former Union republics—are continuing negotiations in Moscow on the draft Economic Union treaty. This is one of these questions today on which the future of almost 300 million people from a sixth of the planet depends in many ways. I asked G.A. Yavlinskiy, the leader of the group on the development of the draft and the deputy chairman of the Committee for the Operational Management of the Country's Economy, to talk about how the negotiations are going. I will mention that it was he who was the central figure in the creation of such widely known programs as "500 days" and "Grand Bargain" [Soglasiye na shans].**

[begin bold] The hour spent in Yavlinskiy's spacious office (a five-minute walk from the Spasskaya Bashnya of the Kremlin) was still another indicator of the intense rhythm with which work is proceeding now on this project. Telephones of all "calibers" rang out, governmental communications ATS-1 [automatic telephone station], ATS-2, HF [high frequency]... This wave partially broke down into an almost inaccessible reception, but on urgent matters the secretary made an immediate connection with Grigoriy Alekseyevich. After several rings, he "dived" into the "stormy" life that was typical for him, he was talking to someone, and I turned off the dictaphone, regretting that I was unable to take Yavlinskiy for this scheduled hour to the editorial office.

While I was there, he talked on the telephone to the leader of one of the republics, with the ambassador of a major state, with workers of the Gosbank [State Bank], the [Ministry of Finance], and with many others. Each time afterwards, after sighing, he said: "Excuse me."

We met in the morning, at a quarter after nine. Yavlinskiy went home after 0100 hours...

[Golovachev] Grigoriy Alekseyevich, is joining the Economic Union conditioned by some kind of political requirement; for example, the signing of the Treaty on the Union of Sovereign States?

[Yavlinskiy] There are no political conditions, and there can be none. After all, we are proceeding from the fact that the Economic Union is being concluded by sovereign states—how can something be dictated to them? It is a vital necessity for all of the 15 sovereign states—the former Soviet republics. If a common economic space is not maintained, which in many ways set in long before the Bolshevik coup of 1917, if a common market is not

organized and a coordinated economic policy is not conducted, then we will not be able to overcome the crisis. These are not mere words and not just my own conviction—this is objective reality.

[Golovachev] How are the negotiations proceeding?

[Yavlinskiy] They are difficult. Very, very difficult. But even though agonizing, the work, nonetheless, is moving ahead. We adopted the kind of plan where we do not go word for word, but according to key subjects. Each republic sent several experts to the negotiations. And all of us, on the basis of professionalism, common sense, and the interests of the parties, are trying to reach an agreement.

[Golovachev] What are the main difficulties?

[Yavlinskiy] I would name, perhaps, two. First, it is not possible, figuratively speaking, to "pull the blanket" too strongly, for there will not be enough for the others. And, second, politics should not interfere with economics, and dominate it—these are two completely different spheres.

[Golovachev] Have the negotiations progressed far?

[Yavlinskiy] Well, for example, we have overcome such fundamentally important and key subjects as the monetary and banking system and finances.

[Golovachev] Will the states participating in the negotiations introduce their own currencies?

[Yavlinskiy] This will be whatever they decide. Some, perhaps, will introduce their own currency, and others will not. This is allowed in the draft of the Economic Union, but only under conditions that exclude the possibility of damage to the monetary system of the Economic Union.

But of course, it would be more advantageous—both from the standpoint of financial expenses (and they are considerable) and from the aspect of economic and social consequences—to keep the ruble as the common currency unit, of course strengthening it, and moving toward real convertibility. But even if national currencies are introduced, nonetheless, some kind of monetary unit is very desirable for interrepublic accounts. It is possible that it will be the ruble.

[Golovachev] And then it will be necessary to establish national currency exchange rates with respect to the ruble, and to organize money exchanges everywhere? All of this is not straightforward...

[Yavlinskiy] It cannot be helped. No other way out is apparent. Even though at great costs, a common economic space has to be maintained. And for this, there must be an appropriate monetary system.

We also succeeded in coming to an agreement at this stage that, for the development and conduct of an effective monetary and credit policy that ensures restraint on price increases and support of the ruble exchange rate, the member states of the Economic Union will establish a Bank Union on the principles of a reserve system. It will include a central bank of member states of the union.

[Golovachev] Did you succeed in coming to an agreement on paying off the internal state debt—it has already far exceeded the half billion line?

[Yavlinskiy] Yes, we reached an agreement on the matter of principles. Member states of the Economic Union must conclude an agreement on the division and judicial redrafting of the state internal debt of the USSR. Part of the debt can be related to general responsibility.

Of course, the continuity of obligations also has to be corroborated with respect to obligations to the owners of deposits in the USSR Savings Bank, state securities, etc.

[Golovachev] And the foreign debt?

[Yavlinskiy] It is absolutely impermissible to divide it according to republics. Foreign creditors gave money to a specific legal person—for example, to the Vneshekonombank [Foreign Economic Bank]. But now what, tell them that they did business with 15 states to whom, strictly speaking, foreign banks did not give credits? Say, you gave a loan to Ivanov, and then you are told, ask Sidorov, Petrov, Smirnov, etc. Will you like it? It is intolerable to undermine the trust of creditors and to take the path of violating generally recognized norms. The money was taken centrally, and the money has to be returned centrally.

[Golovachev] Our currency receipts were supposed to amount to $35-$37 billion this year. Actually, they will be considerably less. Taking the 60 billion debt into account, can we still take credits?

[Yavlinskiy] We still have to analyze this question. The problem is that we are always losing time, the crisis is getting worse, and the situation is becoming more and more complicated. It is one thing if we had proceeded to implement the "500 days" program last year, when the situation was much better, but reform now is another matter. Even this spring the situation was different.

In commenting in TRUD on the draft "Grand Bargain," I emphasized that credit will be given to us only in the event that there is the confidence that this money will start to "work" efficiently, and that we will be able to pay off the debts. That is, the West itself to a large degree will be concerned that the resources we receive will give an increase and will help the formation of the economy and not thrust it back. At that time, I recall, a squall of accusations was hurled at me—it was said, this will lead the country to financial bondage and into a debt hole. Today, we continue to take credits, without having a coordinated plan of action on how to repay them, and we are discussing the economic treaty as if there were still dozens of versions.

[Golovachev] But there is still a chance?

[Yavlinskiy] Yes, but this may be the very last chance. That is why we must not delay signing the treaty on the Economic Union.

[Golovachev] Very little attention is paid in this draft, in my view, to the social protection of people under market conditions.

[Yavlinskiy] Well, the Economic Union itself is the main foundation of the social protection of the individual. Specific measures (the level of the minimum wage, pensions, and the indexation of the incomes of those who live below the poverty line, etc.) must be determined by the republics themselves. But if the monetary system collapses completely, then all of these measures will give nothing.

Inflation is now two to three percent a week. This means that by the end of the year the ruble could be depreciated, if nothing is done, by a factor of 1.5. In other words, the ruble will worsen starting at the beginning of the year by a factor of 4 to 5. Think of how this will affect pensioners, the poor, and each family in general.

Improvement in the monetary system (which should be accomplished within the framework of the Economic Union) will make it possible to carry out measures for the social protection of the people, not on paper, but in real life.

[Golovachev] I had occasion to hear that the social price for implementing the treaty will be excessively great—there is talk about a drop in the living standard by almost 20 percent, about unemployment of 15 percent...

[Yavlinskiy] I do not know whether it will be that way. But that is not the point. If the states are living well, then, of course, such a price for reform is unacceptable. But we have no choice. The price of reforms that are not conducted will be incomparably higher than the social costs under their implementation.

[Golovachev] All three of your programs—""500 days," "Grand Bargain," and the draft of the Economic Union Treaty are distinguished by their consistency and united economic approaches to the resolution of the most important problems. When it became clear last year that the "500 days" program would not be implemented, you left the post of deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of Russia. If (which I would not like to believe) an agreement is not reached on the draft of the Economic Union, or you do not agree with the new draft, what kind of a decision will you make?

[Yavlinskiy] But, of course, I will leave. I will not be in the Interrepublic Economic Committee, nor in any kind of other state structure. I will leave without any kind of resentment and without reproaches. Of course, I will say to myself that the harsh lessons of life have not been perceived by everyone by far. You know, the social conscience changes very slowly...

[Golovachev] But, in my opinion, there is one more danger on the path to reform. The treaty, let us assume, will be signed, but it will not be implemented...

[Yavlinskiy] Yes, there is this danger also. But I set my hopes on the fact that, if not common sense, then at least the feeling of self-preservation must win in the end.

EBRD Plans To Provide Technical Assistance

LD3009111591 Moscow TASS in English 0849 GMT 30 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Sisnev]

[Text] London September 30 TASS—In the light of the recent dramatic events in the Soviet Union, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development [EBRD] sees its task in accelerating technical assistance to the USSR, the bank director, Jacques Attali told TASS.

He stressed that assistance will be rendered along several main lines, including the reorganization of the entire economic structure and privatisation. The bank has established direct links in the latter field with Moscow and St. Petersburg, as well as Russia.

In addition the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development will help streamline the operations of the financial structures, establish a food distribution network and reform agriculture.

The bank's last but not least line of activity in the USSR will be assistance in the development of the oil and gas industry.

The bank's president admitted that the development of a single economic space in the Soviet Union could be facilitated by a single currency unit, the single central bank and absence of trade barriers.

For the Soviet Union to successfully integrate in the world economy, it is most important to reach an agreement on trade and single currency.

Attali warned against hopes for a swift transition of the Soviet Union to a market economy. The process will take years to accomplish, he said. It will be a very long process.

Conference Launches New Economic Rescue Plan

PM0110085191 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Sep 91 p 1

["Commentary" by Yevgeniya Pishchikova: "Another Rescue Program"]

[Text] A conference of business circles to set up an interrepublic economic community was held at the Oktyabrskaya, the former CPSU Central Committee hotel, 17-20 September. A new address thus appeared on the map of political sensations: The hitherto unknown "Union Rebirth" corporation has founded itself and the

organizing committee of the proposed community put forward a new program—the fourth so far—for the economic salvation of the Union, and convened a conference to which the republics' business circles were invited. As a result of all these actions the assembly intends to call the republics to unite not under the auspices of the discredited Union structures but under the wing of "Union Rebirth."

Sensitive to market conditions, corporation president V. Vakhaniya, a businessman, proposed that the republic delegations include not only businessmen but also representatives of parliaments and trade unions. He realized that there must be a link with the people. To legitimize the project representatives of the governments and the republics and sovereign states, preferably with mandates, were also invited to the forum. Some of the guests appeared but without mandates.

According to the idea of the new program's authors, its principal difference from existing ones is that whereas the Yavlinskiy and Saburov programs revive the imperial traditions of the zone of friendship around the Kremlin, their document is based on a grass-roots initiative: "...in the formation of a single economic space, emphasis must be placed on the efforts of businessmen themselves and on economic structures themselves" (extract from the corporation's documents—Ye.P.).

As for the Shatalin program, at the press conference the authors of the "Union Rebirth" project described it as rubbish. Admittedly, they apologized later.

From the general tone of the meeting you could understand that the founders of the forum do not approve of the processes taking place in the country. Indeed—to demonstrate their loyalty to the ideas of democracy the French destroyed the Bastille, the Germans destroyed the Berlin Wall, but we destroyed our own state. Furthermore, the debris of despotism is so monumental that anyone who wants can fit him name on the pieces. From this viewpoint, the corporation's program would be fully entitled to exist but for a few reservations. The main one is the intellectual value of the program itself, whose underlying idea is this: You only have to give freedom to businessmen and organize leading organs of the interrepublic economic community and the rest will arrange itself. Furthermore, it is proposed that the structure of the aforementioned coordinating organs be based on a well-tried scenario. The community assembly, meeting once a year, will be the parliament; the council will undoubtedly be the government; the economic commission, including 14 professional commissions, is the Council of Ministers; and finally, the secretariat is the president's apparatus. The post of community president is also planned: As far as I understand it, none of the country's well-known leaders may run for this role.

The next question, which gives grounds for doubting the conference's political significance, is that of representation. One member of the organizing committee admitted that this organ's task was not only to elaborate the program but also to "catch the big fish," that is, important businessmen whose involvement in the project could lend the assembly the appropriate weight. Judging by the representation of Russia, the broad highway of the Union Rebirth corporation and the directions in which the representatives of big business are going have diverged. The only representative of business people on the organizing committee is corporation president V. Vakhaniya. However, he is very significant. At least it is inscribed in the organizing committee's documents that the "Union Rebirth" corporation finances the whole project. It must be said that this information completely confuses the situation. The corporation is self-financing. We may think that what we have before us is a philanthropic society whose set aim is get the pants of the dissipated fathers out of hock and make them into shorts for their innocent children—businessmen from the republics. A touching idea but for the report that appeared in the press that in the not so distant past the CPSU Central Committee Administration of Affairs transferred 200 million rubles to the corporation's account.

Doctor of Legal Sciences Yu. Maleyev, who took part in drafting the program, noted that this fact, plus the fact that the conference is being held at the [former] CPSU Central Committee hotel, does not compromise the program at all.

Businessmen Cited on Talks With Gorbachev

PM0110101991 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Sep 91 Union Edition p 2

[Report by I. Zhagel: "Businessmen Have Visited the Kremlin Before. But Ours Are Here for the First Time"]

[Text] After a meeting with the president, a number of Enterprise Council members held a press conference where they explained the workings of the new organ, its rights and functions, and how M. Gorbachev related to what the entrepreneurs said.

K. Zatulin, co-chairman of the Interregional Exchange Union, told journalists that the new organ's main task is to create conditions for developing free enterprise in the country; to further the formation of a market structure of economic links within the confines of a single economic space; and to promote business circle interests during the implementation of economic reforms. Naturally, in doing this due account will be taken of foreign experience of state support for enterprise, as well as the recommendations already formulated in the country by various amalgamations and associations.

Of course, this still does not mean that the president will act precisely according to our recommendations, K. Zatulin said. However, one thing we are absolutely sure about is the accurate communication of real economic problems to the supreme state leader.

The principles of the council's formation will also help this. The fact is that members of all previous, comparable organs were appointed from above. The Enterprise Council is elected by the entrepreneurs themselves, which will make it totally independent and capable of objectively resolving the tasks before it.

M. Masarskiy, president of the Association of Leaders of USSR Enterprises, stated in turn that the new council will not only assist progress in economic reform, but also directly defend entrepreneurs and proprietors and help increase their ranks. You know, the main problem today is that our country is "lumpenized," and the lumpen masses are politicized. In these conditions, it is extraordinarily difficult to move toward the market.

Yu. Milyukov. chairman of the Moscow Commodity Exchange Exchange Committee, described the Enterprise Council's other tasks and functions. In particular, there are plans for all laws and other normative acts and directives concerning economic problems to be examined in the Enterprise Council, which will guarantee their high quality and help avoid a repeat of earlier mistakes. Incidentally, at the meeting the USSR president was given a list of those laws and directives which in reality hamper the development of business activity and private initiative—indeed, progress in the economy as a whole.

It is good to see that entrepreneurs are proving increasingly exacting not just of the powers-that-be but also of themselves. Thus, the press conference was introduced to the new president of the Moscow Commodity Exchange—a man who has acceded to this post after a lengthy and complex competition which even involved psychologists. The new president of the Moscow Commodity Exchange is G. Vasilyev, former chairman of Moscow's Oktyabrskiy Rayon Executive Committee. I will remind you that this is the rayon of the capital which has acted most resolutely in developing enterprise, provoking frenzied attacks from moderate reformers and fervent support from radicals.

Economist Urges Strong Ruble for Entire USSR

PM3009152791 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Sep 91 p 2

[Interview with Ye.G. Yasin by A. Yevgenyev under the "Economy" rubric; date, place not given; first paragraph is ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA introduction: "Yevgeniy Yasin: We Still Have To Travel Four-Fourths of the Way"]

[Text] So, we will very soon learn whether we will have a unified economic space or whether the sovereign republics will finally register their divorce. The State Council has essentially still not resolved anything by taking the draft Treaty of Economic Union as a basis. Painstaking coordination of the sides' positions still lies ahead, as well as the preparation of a package of agreements specifically regulating relations among the members of the future union. The well-known economist Yevgeniy Yasin, one of the authors of the "500 Days" program, is taking an active part in this work.

[Yevgenyev] To all appearances, Yevgeniy Grigoryevich, it will not be easy to achieve unity and mutual understanding in the present situation.

[Yasin] Do you know what worries me most of all? Very many people cannot see or do not want to see a complete rupture as a great misfortune. A natural process is taking place, they argue, the empire is disintegrating, and no obstacles should be erected. Let what must happen happen. No one will die of starvation, there are collective and state farms everywhere, we know how to distribute resources, and we will trade—the links are well-known and have been set up over the years, and there is nothing terrible.

[Yevgenyev] Indeed, it is not all so terrible...

[Yasin] But the thing is that economic collapse means not just customs offices and one's own bank notes. It means an entire package of problems, about which people in the republics frequently do not have the slightest idea. For some reason no one has learned anything from the bitter experience of the former CEMA countries, when, on the switch to world prices and freely convertible currency and the cessation of clearing and barter, we lost 30 percent of the commodity turnover. People say that it is necessary to trade at the level of enterprises, on a market basis. Correct. But what is needed in order to arrange such trade is a currency which would enjoy universal confidence and have a stable exchange rate. What does Russia want with Ukrainian money, and the Ukraine with Russian money? This is an impasse. And for a long time to come. Not even our people, the most patient people in the world, would stand for such experiments.

[Yevgenyev] Do the republics' plenipotentiary representatives, with whom you are working today, also permit themselves such statements?

[Yasin] Not often openly. But you can feel that this kind of philosophy is latent. Of course, it is possible to make some people change their mind, given direct contacts. And we are endeavoring to do this. But it is important for a sense of realism to prevail both in the parliaments which will examine the draft treaty and among political leaders.

[Yevgenyev] You have already received comments on the draft from the republics. What is your opinion?

[Yasin] Some of them were surprising. The Ukraine, for example, is insisting on an agreement without delay on dividing up the gold and diamond stock. We have not yet agreed on what to do about currency or how to divide up the foreign debt, but here is almost an ultimatum: Gold up front. No way can you call such a position constructive.

In general, different proposals have been made. But a considerable number of them either attest that the draft

has not been read carefully enough or express a demand to divide everything up as quickly as possible.

[Yevgenyev] President A. Akayev of Kyrgyzstan has bluntly declared that he will not sign the treaty because, in his opinion, it restores the former center.

[Yasin] The proposed version for surmounting the crisis really presupposes the conclusion of a very rigid economic treaty and equally rigid agreements and, most importantly, their punctilious fulfillment. Only then will we have an opportunity to stabilize finances on the basis of a unified currency, to somehow preserve commodity turnover, and to avoid thousands of enterprises' coming to a halt. And, all together, to move toward the market. If this is diktat, it is not diktat of the center but diktat of common sense.

The strengthening of the ruble will be accompanied by the liberalization of the economy and the development of enterprise. And here, particularly at the initial stages, synchronism is vitally important. But what is happening? Russia intends to reduce the state order as much as possible and to let prices go, while the Ukraine intends to maintain it at the level of 90 percent and to keep prices in check. It is not hard to predict that within the framework of the unified economic space, for which both are campaigning, such a lack of coordination will lead to countless mismatches and end, as a result, in the collapse of the whole economy. Moreover, people in many regions have decided that part of the commodity turnover will proceed according to interrepublic agreements, while the republics themselves will have control of the rest. That is, the ministries of material resources, otherwise the former State Committees for Material and Technical Supply, will, as formerly, determine the volumes of commodity imports and exports and will dictate how much of what to deliver to whom. Only this is no longer a market or trade but distribution among 15 edict-administrative systems. We must urgently rid ourselves of the state order and funds and go over to direct ties. It would be desirable for at least 40-50 percent of output to be sold at contract, market—call them what you like—prices. This share must increase subsequently. But, I repeat, if we advocate economic union, we must keep in step.

[Yevgenyev] Is work being conducted in parallel on the draft treaty and the agreements?

[Yasin] No. It is proposed that the treaty will be signed first, and then we will embark in earnest on the preparation of the agreements. As for the latter, working groups are now being formed which will submit their rough drafts to the republics. For this we are inviting people from both state and commercial structures. There is a single selection criterion—the level of professionalism. There are seven such groups in all—on finances and taxes, banks and the monetary system, trade and prices, foreign economic and currency policy, on juridical and social questions and, finally, a consolidated group. Two of them are headed by representatives of Russian departments—B. Puginskiy, deputy chief state arbiter, and S. Rodionov, deputy chairman of the board of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Central Bank.

[Yevgenyev] How do you assess Russia's position as a whole?

[Yasin] Ye. Saburov has made sensible comments on the draft. It is possible to disagree and argue with them, but it seems to me that this is the person with whom it is at least possible to conduct a dialogue. This, as I know from experience, cannot be said, for example, of Finance Minister I. Lazarev and M. Maley, chairman of the State Committee for the Management of State Property. But the most complex thing in relations with Russia is that it is not very clear with whom to deal. I. Silayev's position is rather ambiguous. If a new premier comes along, a cadre reshuffle cannot be ruled out. And complete clarity is needed at such a time.

I believe that we have a right to expect a more sensible financial policy from Russia as the leading republic. An emergency budget was adopted in the RSFSR not so long ago. Throughout the world this is an instrument for reducing expenditure. But Russia has increased it, giving a new boost to inflation.

[Yevgenyev] But, you will agree, given the unified monetary system and the sickly ruble, no one republic has any special reason today to contract expenditure. On the contrary, he who does so will lose out.

[Yasin] You are not taking into account the tremendous moral authority of Russia and its leaders, which has increased particularly since the August events. If Russia starts reducing the budget deficit, I am sure that its example will be followed by the Ukraine, Belorussia, Kazakhstan...

[Yevgenyev] And yet, Yevgeniy Grigoryevich, if it is not possible to reach a consensus, can you, as an economist, say what this will cost us?

[Yasin] The drop in the volume of production is forecast at the level of 20 percent this year and at 10-15 percent next year. If disintegration ensues, we will have a further shortfall of at least 20 percent. This is practically a disaster.

[Yevgenyev] But a different scenario is also possible. After a protracted, heated debate the high contracting parties will sign the documents but will not abide by them.

[Yasin] This is the very worst option. Then, apart from everything else, we will also squander time.

'Strange Apathy' for Economic Reform Criticized

LD0110074991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1618 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow, 30 Sep (TASS)—The only way to prevent the collapse of the country's economy is decisive reforms, stresses a statement from the Political Council of the Movement for Democratic Reforms (MDR) distributed here today.

The document notes that there has been a "strange apathy" in economic reform in the one and a half months since the failure of the coup d'etat. Land reform is put off from one day to the next, and the declared free enterprise is not being bolstered by vigorous executive actions in the sphere of privatization.

"There is also marking time regarding foreign investors. Once again, as they used to, the leaders of republics and economic departments are asking for foreign loans rather than creating the conditions necessary to attract Western capital and technology to our country," says the document. It contains an appeal to all democratic forces to cast off all conflicts of a basically tactical nature for the sake of the people's higher interests. "This will provide an opportunity for creating the common democratic and legal space that is so needed today, and will open the way to the least painful transition of the republics to a new quality and the entry of the commonwealth of sovereign states into the world community," concludes the statement from the MDR Political Council.

Agricultural

State Fattening Complexes in 'Critical Situation'

LD0110033991 Moscow TASS in English 1251 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow September 30 TASS—Soviet state fattening complexes, which produce 20 per cent of all the meat and 90 per cent of all the eggs in the country, are now in a desperately critical situation. They have nothing to feed cattle and poultry with.

Specialists of the USSR Ministry of Agriculture believe they now need from 32 to 34 million tonnes of feed grain, which is almost completely lacking in state storages. If the situation is not normalised shortly, a huge number of cattle will have to be slaughtered.

Experts believe one of the reasons for this situation is that having received economic independence, the collective and state farms, which formerly supplied grain to the state, decided to reduce livestock capita, including pedigree animals. Livestock breeding is unprofitable and very labour consuming in many husbandries. In the meantime, according to expert estimates, there are now about 15 million tonnes of excess feed grain in collective and state farms. Having no faith in the purchasing power of the rouble, they have put the grain aside for future barter transactions. They do not intend to sell or lend it to the state.

In these conditions, experts believe, the only way out of the predicament is to purchase grain abroad. This problem is now being discussed at the very highest level. But even if it is decided to resort to this measure, it will not be enough to stabilise the situation. Equally acute is the problem of veterinary preparations, which is frought with the danger of losing more than 30 per cent of the cattle and poultry overnight. Another 300 million U.S. dollars are needed to buy such preparations abroad.

According to the USSR Ministry for Agriculture, it is planned to produce 19.3 million tonnes of meat this year, provided the fodder problem is solved. This is 10 per cent less than last year. The output of milk will drop by 12 per cent and eggs—by 10 per cent.

Altay Kray Food Tax Reduced

PM3009120191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Sep 91 Union Edition p 2

[Report by IZVESTIYA correspondent M. Kurgalina: "Altay's Tax in Kind Reduced, Grain Arrives"]

[Text] Altay Kray—The news that the Russian Government, having analyzed the situation, has considered it possible to reduce the kray's tax in kind and and state order to 1 million tonnes has cooled passions. It has also been stated that grain deliveries to the state order run hand in hand with extremely beneficial conditions: hard currency, equipment, and double remuneration.

Admittedly, this 1 million tonnes of grain barely covers the kray's annual needs and will therefore all remain here. Grain may prove precious. But at least Canadian wheat will not have to be brought into Altay as was the case last year.

At the beginning of last week more than half of the grain crops had already been threshed in Altay but grain procurement personnel sounded the alarm: The state granaries are empty!

Kolkhozes and sovkhozes were not delivering grain and the most determined leaders said: We will distribute grain to homes but we will not bring it to the silos.

And now the grain has arrived. The crisis situation has passed. It developed like this. The amount of the kray's tax in kind and state order did not match this year's conditions and instead of the planned 16 quintals per hectare the drought-afflicted areas of the kray will barely muster 10 quintals. Had they met the target grain growers would have been left without feed stocks for livestock farming and without money since the price of grain delivered as tax in kind is low.

The grain grower's former "first commandment"—to deliver grain to the state—came into conflict with the laws of the emergent market. The producer refused to

work at a loss. Representatives of commodity and raw-material exchanges offered a price for the grain five times in excess of the state price. In Smolenskiy Rayon the people of Kemerovo offered them their heart's desire—computers, video recorders, and refrigerators—in return for grain. They met with the following response: You sell your coal for hard currency, pay us hard currency for our grain too, and we will work out what to spend it on.

U.S. Banks' Silence on Grain Credits Examined

924A0001B Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 26 Sep 91 p 3

[Unattributed article under the rubric "Today in the World": "The Banks of the United States Guard... Their Silence"]

[Text] New York, 25 September 1991, TASS—The banks of the United States are "functioning unlike true capitalists" by refusing to grant the USSR credits for the purchase of American grain. Such was the opinion of James Millar, an authoritative American Soviet specialist and director of the institute to study the problems of China and the Soviet Union under George Washington University.

"We are not showing any persistence or business sense," he declared in an interview with AP. "We are marring our reputation and letting go of an opportunity which others are enjoying."

In the opinion of Millar, U.S. business circles are attaching an excessively large significance to the size of the foreign debt of the USSR and to the question of its credit worthiness and are taking insufficient account of "good opportunities for capital investments" in the Soviet economy. The United States itself is the largest debtor in the world: Its foreign debt exceeds $360 billion.

"Having been burned on unsecured loans to countries of the Third World, the banks of the United States are avoiding participation in a matter which, under other conditions, would be viewed as an excellent deal," notes AP. "The granting of credits to the Soviets for the purchase of American grain is backed by guarantees which are assured by the most credit worthy signature in the world, that of 'Uncle Sam.'"

In June of this year the U.S. Administration announced that the Soviet Union was to be granted financial guarantees for the receipt of a loan worth a total of $1.5 billion toward the purchase of American agricultural production, chiefly forage grain. In the process George Bush, President of the United States, declared that guarantees worth $600 million would be granted immediately. After the collapse of the attempted coup d'etat in Moscow in August the administration granted guarantees worth another $500 million, which originally were to be allotted on 1 October. The guarantees for the remaining $400 million are supposed to be granted on 1 February 1992.

The U.S. Government has guaranteed the payment of 98 percent of the total of the loan as well as 4.5 percent of the annual interest, which represents almost half of the payment for the use of the credits. However, practically not one American bank has expressed a wish to grant the Soviet Union credits under such unprecedentedly profitable conditions. As a result, the loans have been granted by branches of a number of West European banks operating in the United States.

"The unwillingness of the banks to grant credits to the Soviets, who are enduring difficulties, threatens the United States with the loss of future influence on that country which is trying to create a free market economy," points out the AP, citing the opinion of specialists.

24 Sep Agricultural Developments Reported

LD2909015991

[Editorial Report] Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian at 1200 GMT on 24 September reports that Kazakhstan is finishing its grain harvest. State farms and collectives are already calculating the results of the harvest. There has been half as much barley and wheat on average in the republic as compared with last year. The severe drought has contributed to this. As a result of this, threshing sites have received 12 million tonnes of grain but the elevators have received much less: 2 million tonnes as of today. The republic has never had such a small reserve of grain before.

Oblasts such as Kustanay and North Kazakhstan are selling practically no grain. Chimkent and Uralsk oblasts have sold grain to the state far below their capacity.

Due to the drought, the farmers of Kurgan oblast in the RSFSR are left without a harvest. There was to have been 20,000 tonnes sold as well as another 130,000 tonnes on state order. This amount can be considered an insult because 1.5 million tonnes of grain from Kurgan oblast used to be delivered to the elevators in favorable years.

27 Sep Agricultural Developments Reported

LD2909015991

[Editorial Report] Kiev Radio Kiev Network in Ukrainian at 0500 GMT on 27 September reports that the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers has decided on urgent measures to increase state grain reserves and use them rationally. The cabinet notes that owing to the unsatisfactory organizational work of the executive bodies in the majority of oblasts and rayons concerning the procurement of grain for state reserves, an extraordinary state of affairs has arisen concerning the supply of bread products for people, grain feed for cattle, and raw materials for the processing industry.

Whereas the state's order was 17,000,000 tonnes, as of 19 September only 10,000,000 tonnes were procured, which is 4,000,000 tonnes less than last year at this time.

The Council of Ministers of the Crimean Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic and the oblast executive committees have been instructed, taking into account critical observations and proposals expressed at the Ukrainian cabinet session, to determine the maximum amount of grain that can be sold to the state and to ensure its delivery to the state reserves; to create necessary conditions to complete the threshing of grit and late grain crops; and to ensure the gathering of corn from all cultivated areas, using part of the stored corn to increase feed reserves considerably.

The republic's Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Economy, State Committee for Grain Products, and Academy of Agrarian Sciences should work out by 15 Ocober a concept of state orders for agricultural produce for 1992. The document should envisage the principle of free will and the mechanism of mutual interest and responsibility of both sides for its unconditional fulfilment.

Scientific

Soviet-German Space Flight Faces Delays

LD2709165191 Moscow TASS in English 1508 GMT 27 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Nikolay Kalintsev]

[Text] Bonn September 27 TASS—A Soviet-German space flight to the Soviet orbiting station Mir scheduled for next March may be postponed due to political changes in the Soviet Union, German Minister of Research and Technology Heinz Riesenhuber told NORDSEE-ZEITUNG on Friday.

Riesenhuber stressed this will not affect space cooperation between both countries.

Space Cooperation Agreements Reached With France

LD3009052591 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2134 GMT 27 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Igor Kuleshov]

[Text] Paris, 28 Sep (TASS)—The mutual desire to develop cooperation in space exploration was confirmed by the 27th meeting of Soviet and French scientists, which ended on Friday in the city of Tours, Indre-et-Loire.

As Vladimir Kotelnikov, chairman of the council of "Interkosmos" pointed out in a conversation with a TASS correspondent, a whole series of accords on cooperation in the most varied fields was achieved during the meeting with colleagues from France's national center for space research.

French scientists expressed a wish to become participants in the promising project to create the Romantis improved communications satellite, which is being developed by scientists of the Soviet Union and a number of other countries.

Agreement was also reached on numerous matters connected with expeditions to Mars in 1994 and 1996, including the distribution of scientific equipment in the course of implementing these two projects.

In the sphere of medicine, the scientists of the two countries agreed on matters relating to the conduct of medical research and use of medical equipment during next year's flight by the French cosmonaut, Michel Tognini, aboard the orbiting Mir station. French scientists will also take part in the implementation in 1992 of the Biosputnik-10 biological satellite project.

Important accords were reached in the sphere of meteorology. It was decided to begin development work on forecasting earthquakes taking account of processes in space and in particular in the ionosphere. This dependence has been repeatedly observed, but science is as yet unable to explain it. The hope is that if these processes are solved, there might emerge a new method for forecasting earthquakes, which is naturally of exceptionally great importance.

Deserving special attention among projects connected with Earth are the joint projects for studying atmospheric pollution, which will be precisely registered by laser instruments aboard a satellite flying above the Earth. Scientists of the two countries will also study matters concerning the loss of heat by the Earth, which is particularly important for predicting changes in the climate and the weather, the Soviet scientist stressed in conclusion.

Preparations for Joint Space Expedition Examined

LD3009133791 Moscow TASS in English 1124 GMT 30 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondents Yury Konorov and Vladimir Khrustov]

[Text] Baykonur Cosmodrome September 30 TASS—The regular international space expedition, expected to begin within two days from now, arouses particular interest among mass media representatives. Two space researchers will work on board the Soviet "Mir" scientific complex for the first time—a representative of Austria and an envoy of sovereign Kazakhstan, where the country's main cosmodrome—Baykonur—is located.

More than 180 Soviet and foreign journalists, including more than 40 Kazakh pressmen, have already been accredited at the cosmodrome's press centre. This was stated on Sunday evening by Kazakh minister for the press and information Kuanysh Sultanov and head of the press service of the USSR Defence Ministry's space units Colonel Aleksandr Radionov. Sultanov informed

representatives of the press that henceforth "space journalists" will have to get accreditation certificates from the Kazakh Ministry for the Press and Information in order to be able to cover Baykonur events.

The working day of journalists began with dawn today. They watched how the carrier-rocket with the "Soyuz TM-13" transport vehicle were moved out of the assembly and testing shop to the starting position. The flight is expected to last eight days. The two spacemen will spend six of them on board the "Mir" complex. While Commander Aleksandr Volkov takes over from Anatoly Artsebarsky, Toktar Aubakirov of Kazakhstan and Franz Fibek of Austria will carry out some difficult scientific programmes, specially prepared for them by Austrian and Kazakh scientists. They include medical, technological and geophysical research and experiments, long-distance sounding of the earth's surface and the atmosphere.

Aubakirov and Fibek will return to the earth together with Anatoly Artsebarsky, commander of the crew that is now working on the orbit. Alexander Volkov and board engineer Sergey Krikalev will continue their space duty until March 1992.

We have forestalled events by indicating the names of future expedition members. The state commission will meet tomorrow to decide the composition of the crew. The start is fixed for 7.59 a.m., October 2.

Progress M-9 Entry Capsule Returns to Earth

LD3009151991 Moscow TASS in English 1328 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow September 30 TASS—The entry capsule of the Progress M-9 transport spacecraft has been successfully returned to Earth today.

The capsule delivered research materials from orbit, prepared by two Soviet cosmonauts, Anatoliy Artsebarskiy and Sergey Krikalev, aboard the Mir orbiting Soviet space station.

The transport disengaged from Mir at 03.54 Moscow time [0054 GMT]. The M-9 carried the capsule through its descent trajectory but separated from the craft on re-entry where the M-9 burnt up.

The capsule completed its descent by parachute and made a soft landing in the designated landing area at 10.18.

Anatoliy Artsebarskiy and Sergey Krikalev continue their mission and are now preparing to welcome a Soviet-Austrian research crew, arriving to the station soon. Health of the both cosmonauts is reported satisfactory.

No Changes Planned in Soviet Space Program

LD0110023191 Moscow TASS in English 2031 GMT 30 Sep 91

[By TASS special correspondents Yuriy Konorov and Vladimir Khrustov]

[Text] Baykonur Cosmodrome September 30 TASS—All international space flights planned for next year will be held as scheduled and the Soviet Union will fulfil its obligations, state commission members told journalists here today.

Yuriy Semyonov, general designer at the Energiya science and production association, said the Soviet-German flight is planned for March and the Soviet-French mission for June. Part of hard currency received from these flights will go to develop Soviet cosmonautics, including the Baykonur Cosmodrome and the infrastructure of Leninsk, its capital.

Kazakhstan First Deputy Prime Minister Yevgeniy Yezhikov-Babakhanov said the forthcoming flight of a Kazakh cosmonaut demonstrated the enhanced level of the national science and the republic's aspiration to make maximum use of the achievements of space engineering in the interests of Kazakhstan's national economy.

Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev's decrees on the republican space agency and the transition of enterprises on the republic's territory under the control of Kazakhstan will expedite the solution of these tasks.

Colonel General Vladimir Ivanov emphasised, however, that the Baykonur Cosmodrome's launch pads will continue to be under the control of the command of the USSR Defence Ministry's space forces.

Military

Forces Commander on Withdrawal From Germany

AU2709142991 Hamburg DIE WELT in German 27 Sep 91 p 6

[Interview with Colonel General Matvey Burlakov, commander in chief of the Western Group of Soviet Forces, WGSF, by Peter Schmalz; place and date not given; "The People Have a Very Good Attitude Toward Us"]

[Text] [Schmalz] General, how is the situation of the Soviet soldiers and civilian employees in Germany? How is the relationship with the German people? Where are the problems?

[Burlakov] First of all, I would like to say something about history. The Western Group was formed in 1945 after the victory of the Soviet people in World War II. The best units and forces that fought at the end of this world war form the basis of the Western Group; most troops are guards troops. After the unification of Germany we were afraid to a certain extent for the fate of our

troops. The evil enemy image hovered above us for a long time, and we had been infected by it. However, now I can say that the people have a very good attitude toward us, and I would like to stress especially that this also applies to the people from the western part of Germany. We feel that the local population looks on us with respect. This positive attitude can be felt at all levels, from the leaders of Germany to those of the laender and to the simple German people. This cooperation also extends to supplies with foodstuffs, coal, and heating material.

The second element of our cooperation is the organization of combat training. Of course, the troops always create some noise and that entails problems for the local people. Therefore, we have limited combat training.

[Schmalz] Have plane exercises been reduced?

[Burlakov] We have set a minimum height for flight training of 600 meters. The third element of our cooperation is the withdrawal. Withdrawal of the troops is proceeding successfully, even though the way across the sea is rather complicated. But we are receiving help from the German authorities. Good cooperation has also developed with the Bundeswehr.

[Schmalz] This all sounds very positive. Where are the problems?

[Burlakov] In my view, the biggest problem is the disposition of our real estate. We have 777 military facilities on German territory. A total of 21,000 houses and buildings on these premises were built with Soviet money. Our financial experts estimate this property at 10.5 billion German marks.

[Schmalz] Do you have any hope that you will get the money?

[Burlakov] I hope so! This is a contentious issue, but I think that even if we do not get everything, we will get most of it.

[Schmalz] However, there is also a counter-estimate, namely that the elimination of environmental damage on the returned military premises costs a lot of money.

[Burlakov] I think that this is a political issue. Environmental protection must be calculated from 1941 to today. And then it is difficult to say who has to pay more to whom. As regards our military facilities, we are putting everything in order. Of course, I cannot say that everything is ideally clean there, but we are trying to eliminate all the effects of our work.

[Schmalz] Do you want to take all ammunition back to the USSR or scrap part of it here?

[Burlakov] We had 780,000 tonnes of ammunition. Almost 400,000 tonnes of that have been removed so far.

[Schmalz] How about your schedule?

[Burlakov] We are now trying, above all, to remove the ammunition more quickly. You know that we have removed all nuclear weapons and now we are trying to remove the simple ammunition as quickly as possible. However, I would like to point to a serious problem: the increasing activities of various extremist forces against the Western Group. There are many such examples, and as the commander in chief I am worried that such excesses by the ultrarightists might lead to counteraction by our people. Recently a captain was killed, two of his comrades were beaten. The officers in this helicopter regiment were so outraged that they wanted to take countermeasures. We control the situation in the troops and restrain counteractions by the people.

[Schmalz] Do you fear spontaneous reactions by your soldiers?

[Burlakov] I am afraid that the patience of some people may be exhausted; therefore I turned to Defense Minister Stoltenberg with the request that the police protect us against such excesses.

[Schmalz] Do you see any problems in the treatment of deserters?

[Burlakov] This is certainly a problem, but not a particular one. Only very few soldiers desert. They do not worry us, they only bring shame for us. We are more worried about the fact that we miss those who have disappeared and we do not know whether they were killed or just disappeared. Our request to the German authorities is to give us some brief information when a deserter turns up in an asylum camp so that we do not have to look for him and do not need to bother the local population.

[Schmalz] How many deserters have you had?

[Burlakov] A bit more than 200.

[Schmalz] Back to the withdrawal: How is the mood of the troops and among the families?

[Burlakov] The mood of the withdrawing soldiers is not all alike. The conscripts return home with great joy. The officers who have an apartment at home are also content. The situation of those who do not have an apartment is complicated. These are 55,000 families in our forces.

[Schmalz] The FRG Government has allocated 7 billion German marks for the construction of apartments.

[Burlakov] This is correct. For part of these funds 3,000 apartments should be built this year. However, not a single one of these apartments has been finished so far. I can understand the worries of the families, in particular of the officers' wives, but I can hardly help them. Therefore, I would like to appeal once again to the German public to have the Soviet real estate in German assessed and then to use these resources for the construction of apartments in the Soviet Union.

[Schmalz] General, what do you feel personally? The Soviet Army once came as the victor. Now you are commander in chief of an army that is withdrawing as a result of international political developments.

[Burlakov] I think that the person who caused the new political thinking is our president. And we understand quite well that we will leave the foreign country, which we are doing now. Now there are also all conditions ready so that in the future we will cultivate good-neighborly relations in the fields of economy, social affairs, and in other areas. I am convinced that a command of the time is now being fulfilled. We have fulfilled our main task in Germany, namely to preserve peace on the European continent.

[Schmalz] What was the role of the Soviet forces in Germany during the explosive days of the attempted putsch?

[Burlakov] Your colleagues from the press would have had me removed from my post already once. Then I invited the television to this room here. The Supreme Command of the Western Group concentrated from the very beginning on fulfilling its constitutional duty. And I think that we did not give any sign of not acting or not being able to act properly.

[Schmalz] As a result of this putsch the republics have intensified their striving for independence. To what extent does this affect the way the Soviet Army understands its role?

[Burlakov] The military reform has been started just now, and the relations between the republics and the Army will then naturally be developed within the shortest possible period. The military reform will lead to setting down a mixed concept in the Army: a professional army on the one hand and, on the other, conscripts.

[Schmalz] You do not think that the proposals to establish a purely professional army will be successful?

[Burlakov] I think that this question is not topical at the moment. We will come to that a little later. Our next task will be to restructure the main Army organizations on the basis of a professional army. In the other technical areas of the Army, which are less important, the soldiers will do their military service.

[Schmalz] General, will the Soviet Army continue to fulfill defense tasks in the republics—in the Ukraine, for instance—or will the Soviet Army turn into a Russian Army at one time?

[Burlakov] I think that the Soviet Army will remain an international army, and as parts of this army the units of the Ukrainian and the Russian Army as well as the armies of the central Asian republics—that is, of all republics of the Union—will be integrated.

[Schmalz] The Soviet Army as a factor of stabilization?

[Burlakov] This is how I understand it.

[Schmalz] Does the Soviet Army have a serving function toward politics today?

[Burlakov] I am of the opinion that the Army cannot be a toy in the hands of the politicians and that the Army must fulfill its role, namely defending the state. The politicians must also understand that they must not force the Army to eliminate conflicts, including nationality conflicts.

[Schmalz] Which task have you assigned to the political officers in the Western Group?

[Burlakov] You know that the party structures in the Army and the military political organs have been abolished. Today the former political officers are subordinate to the respective commanders and have to do their service. Many of the officers who have served for quite some time are preparing for their discharge. The young political officers will undergo retraining as of October.

[Schmalz] General, will you be the last Soviet soldier to leave Germany? What will be your thoughts when you leave Germany?

[Burlakov] I cannot yet say with certainty that I will be the last soldier. I am making every effort so that the great work that is done by our officers will not be in vain and that we will leave many friends here in Germany when we withdraw.

Denies Presence of Nuclear Weapons

LD3009231191 Moscow TASS in English 1750 GMT 30 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Igor Osinskiy]

[Text] Berlin September 30 TASS—Colonel-General Matvey Burlakov, the commander-in-chief of the Soviet Western Group of Forces, has refuted last week's report by the SUEDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG newspaper that there are Soviet nuclear weapons on East German territory.

The newspaper referred to the information it allegedly received from Norbert Gansel, the chairman of the German Social Democratic Party parliamentary faction.

"I invite Mr. Gansel or his confidential person to visit any object of the Soviet western group of forces they like, to make sure that there are no Soviet nuclear weapons on territory of the former German Democratic Republic," says statement by General Burlakov, circulated here today.

The command of the Soviet Western Group of Forces expresses the hope that from now on the leadership of the Social Democratic Party of Germany will use verified and objective information, the statement notes.

Appeal on Conscientious Objectors' Behalf Viewed

PM0110092391 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Sep 91 First Edition p 3

[Article by Captain S. Sidorov: "The Human Dimension of Military Service"]

[Text] Participants in the informal meeting timed to coincide with the third Conference on the Human Dimension of European Security, which is currently taking place in Moscow, made an appeal to the USSR State Council, the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet, the Russian and Union presidents, as well as to the USSR minister of defense: "to adopt a law on alternative service as soon as possible and recognize a citizen's right to refuse to carry out military service for religious, moral and ethical, or humanitarian reasons."

The Russian Society for Peace together with the Religious Society of Friends (the Quakers) organized the meeting. According to a representative of the Quaker organization, P. Jarman, the appeal will not only be brought to the attention of those to whom it is addressed but will also be presented in accordance with generally accepted practice to the Moscow Forum's secretariat as a subject for consideration when preparing their summary document.

You have to admit that the protracted affair associated with adopting a law on alternative service in this country not only creates added difficulties for the military commissariats' and Army officers' work, but also does nothing at all to enhance our international prestige. It is difficult not to agree with the discussion's participants that an absence of the institution of alternative civilian service while the Law on General Military Service is effective is a direct violation of the international obligations which the Soviet Union adopted in recent years. It is also paradoxical that it in fact a Soviet representative, Litvinov, who in 1927 first raised the question of objecting to military service on grounds of conscience at the League of Nations. But now that the wheel of history has done a complete circle we have as it were been "left lagging behind events," having become one of three countries participating in the Helsinki process in which the situation in this respect is recognized as being unfavorable from the point of view of international law.

The previous staff of the USSR Supreme Soviet tabled the draft law about alternative service back in May—in consideration of there being no formulated conception of military reform, without which it really was not expedient to adopt the law. It only remains for us to conjecture when now the new Union parliament staff will get to grips with it, being saddled as they are with the burden of other immediate problems. As far as the Russian Federation's Supreme Soviet is concerned, in the opinion of military lawyer Lieutenant Colonel A. Pchelintsev it will probably adopt such a law in the near future.

Questions which are highly complex for the politicians will inevitably arise in the course of the parliamentary debates on the draft law. These were also to be heard raised in one form or another at the informal conference. For example if everything is more or less clear as concerns alternative service for members of religious communities or sects whose convictions do not allow them to bear arms or take the oath, then it is much more complicated as regards the refusal to carry out military service for nonreligious reasons. How for example should we regard sincere and convinced pacifists? Incidentally, by adopting Resolution 59 of the UN Commission for Human Rights, we essentially agreed that in the future the refusal to carry out military service not only for religious and moral and ethical reasons, but also for "other reasons" will not be regarded as an act punishable by criminal law.

In short the legislators will have to do some serious work bearing in mind that even in the "civilized world" the law on refusing to carry out military service for reasons of conscience has not yet been sufficiently clearly defined.

Many of the people who spoke posed the question from a radical point of view—and here during a more than emotional exchange of opinions both pacifists and the professional military found themselves on the same side of the "barricades": Only volunteers should serve in the present-day Army functioning under the conditions of society today. In this case there will be no need for alternative service.

Baltic Affairs

Lithuania, Latvia Negotiate Goods Supplies

OW0110012591 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2015 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuania's Deputy Minister for Material Resources, Pranas Mazeika, arrived in Riga today to negotiate an agreement on mutual goods supplies for 1992.

Latvia is expected to export to Lithuania motor vehicles manufactured by the Riga Motor Works, agricultural machinery, chemical fibres, paints, slate, electric equipment and other goods. Lithuania will be supplying Latvia with oil products, diesel oil, mazout, nitric fertilisers, machine tools, equipment for agro-industrial complexes, cotton fibres, leather footwear and agricultural produce.

BF [BALTFAX] reports that Latvia is expected to hold similar negotiations with Moldovan representatives.

Estonia

Savisaar Refuses Comment on Territorial Claims

OW0110013691 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2015 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a briefing in Tallinn, Estonian Premier Edgar Savisaar gave no direct answer to the question of a BF [BALTFAX] correspondent who asked him what is the official position of the Estonian authorities on the claims currently being laid in the republic to parts of Leningrad and Pskov regions. He merely said this was "one of the issues to be negotiated by Estonia and Russia".

In 1945, part of what had been Estonian territory between 1920 and 1940 was transferred to the Russian Federation by decree of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. This was followed by a decree to the same effect adopted by the Presidium of the Estonian Supreme Council, which was only repealed this month. This, in turn, caused concern in the "disputed" territories.

Estonia's Minister for Interethnic Relations, Artur Kuznetsov, told a BF correspondent that the authorities of the Leningrad Region would never consent to the transfer of these areas to Estonia. This was expressly stated at last week's session of the regional council.

Mr. Kuznetsov thought this territorial issue was a "result of the political struggle in Estonia". He did not think the territories should be given back to Estonia. "What is poor Russia going to do if other countries apart from Estonia start laying claims to its territory?" he said.

But he said he doubted that Russia and Estonia would come to an agreement on the issue.

Government, KGB Agree on Transfer of Documents

OW3009201891 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1230 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In an interview with BF [BALTFAX] the former Chairman of the Estonian KGB Rein Sillar said that currently the Estonian Government and the USSR KGB are preparing a new draft agreement. It envisages the transfer of some of the USSR KGB's documents and property to Estonia.

Estonian Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar and Chairman of the USSR KGB Vadim Bakatin have already signed two agreements.

The first one regulates the USSR KGB's activities on the Estonian territory during the transitional period, and the second one concerns the gradual transfer of Estonia's borders under the republican control.

Mr. Sillar suggested that the USSR KGB, the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic KGB and the Estonian special service could jointly combat the international terrorism. He also did not rule out the possibility of joint preparation of personnel.

Mr. Sillar declared that the Estonian KGB would not hand over the list of its servicemen to any of the Estonian governmental commissions.

"I am responsible for these people as a chief and as a human. Governments change and there is no guarantee that the next government will not make this list public knowledge", he stressed.

Security, Border Control Officers To Train 10 Oct

OW3009221291 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1230 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A three week course for officers of the Department of State Security and Border Control in Estonia begins on October 10, the general director of the department, Andris Oovel, informed "BALTFAX".

He said that 60 former officers of the Soviet Army would be on the training course. Having completed the course they will work either as instructors training Estonian frontier guards or as inspectors of the republic's border posts.

A. Oovel stressed that by November 300 people will have already undergone the corresponding training.

In an interview with "BALTFAX", the course leader, Ralf Nellis, expressed the hope that in the near future the training of Estonia's frontier guards would take place at

the training base of the Soviet KGB border units situated near the village of Azeri. The main consent needed for this has already been given by the Baltic border district.

'Tartu Radio' Begins Trial Broadcast

LD0110081191 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 0600 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Today a trial broadcast by Tartu radio will go on the air. We are talking here about a radio station that was brought to life by a joint-stock company of the same name. The joint-stock company is made up of the Estonian Radio, Tartumaa District government, and Tartu City government in equal shares. The production director of Tartu radio is Vello Laan, former head of Estonian radio's studio in Tartu. He has also put together a team for his local radio station. The other staff of Estonian radio's studio in Tartu are for the time being still employed by the Estonian radio. Tartu radio will be broadcasting regularly from Monday, on VHF, at the frequency of 69.6 MHz.

[Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian at 1500 GMT on 30 September adds: "Today Tartu radio started broadcasting. The first day on the air was led by Vello Laan, director of the radio station. Tartu radio is on the air around the clock: broadcasting starts at 0600 and finishes 0100, with music played through the night. One can listen to Tartu radio on VHF at 69.92 MHz. Reception reaches as far as Torva, Viljandi, and Poltsamaa."]

First Postage Stamps Issued 1 Oct

OW3009221891 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1550 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A BF [BALTFAX] correspondent reports from Tallinn that the first postage stamps of independent Estonia will be issued tomorrow. The design shows the national flag of the republic.

Latvia

Riga Requests Official Membership in IMF

LD0110091791 Moscow TASS in English 0751 GMT 1 Oct 91

[By TASS correspondent Aleksandr Korolev]

[Text] Washington October 1 TASS—Latvia has appealed for official membership of the International Monetary Fund, the largest international finance organisation announced on Monday in a press release.

It says the appeal will be considered in accordance with established procedures. It will be heard by the executive directorate of the fund, which makes its recommendations to the IMF board in a special document. It will determine Latvia's quota with the fund, its admission fee and membership obligations.

After the recommendations are approved by the board, "Latvia will have to take legal steps in accordance with its laws to sign an agreement and fulfill its membership obligations," the press release said.

Latvia is the third Baltic republic after Estonia and Lithuania to apply for membership of the International Monetary Fund following their declarations of independence.

Vaznis, Barannikov Discuss Signing of Agreement

LD3009090791 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1730 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Meeting today in Moscow, Aloizs Vaznis, Minister of Internal Affairs of Latvia, and USSR Minister of Internal Affairs Barannikov reached accord that very soon an agreement would be signed between the ministries of Internal Affairs of Latvia and the Soviet Union. This agreement will include several issues: an accord on mutual search for and extradition of criminals; collaboration on the questions of transporting criminals under guard; exchange of information; access to all criminal card indexes in the Soviet Union and also supplying information to these card indexes; collaboration in the questions of training methods for cadres, and also in tackling analytical and expert examination questions. In such expert examinations which it is not possible or is not expedient to carry out in Latvia, it will be possible to carry them out at a specialized laboratory of the Soviet Union.

An agreement has been reached whereby this year the Soviet Union will withdraw all Internal Troops from Latvia. The tempo of withdrawal depends only on the capability of the Internal Affairs bodies of Latvia to take over the establishments guarded by the Internal Troops.

Aloizs Vaznis has decided to maintain close contacts with the Soviet Internal Affairs system, and he will participate as an observer at the meetings of the ministers of Internal Affairs of the Union republics.

Power Engineering Ministry To Raise Fuel Costs

OW3009144791 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1000 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Since the current prices on fuel were established in the 1970's and now do not correspond with reality, the Latvian Power Engineering Ministry has prepared a draft of new prices on fuel and submitted it to the Latvian Council of Ministers. It is planned to raise prices on virtually all types of fuel: coal, gas, liquid fuel, firewood, etc. In general, the new prices on fuel will not exceed the purchase ones and on some kinds of fuel will be even lower. For example, the price on firewood will increase from 6 to 36 rubles per cubic meter. Obviously,

rents will be reviewed in Latvia since the cost of heating will go up. The cost of hot water will jump from 50 kopecks to 3 rubles 50 kopecks a month.

New Customs Code Comes Into Force 1 Oct

OW3009221591 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1530 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A new customs code of Latvia comes into force on October 1.

Aivars Salins, director of the Latvian Customs Department, told the newspaper "DIENA" that the new customs code is similar to that of the USSR which "almost corresponds with the best customs codes of the world."

As BF [BALTFAX] reported earlier, last week the prime ministers of the three Baltic states signed an accord setting up a customs union.

The agreement envisages the liquidation of customs borders between the Baltics and coordinates customs tariffs. At the end of 1991 the Baltics will sign a treaty based on this agreement.

On September 1, 1991, the Latvian Customs Department took control over the Soviet customs posts operating on the republican territory.

Mr. Salins said that the Latvian side is working out a draft agreement under which the customs officers on the eastern border will be allowed to stop trains travelling from the east to the west and vice versa for examination.

The BF's correspondent reports that new customs posts are being established on the eastern border of Latvia. One customs post at Abreme is a subject of dispute beteen Latvia and the Russian Federation. If the two sides come to an agreement favorable to Latvia, this customs post "will move 80 km eastward".

Currency To Be Introduced Second Half of 1992

OW3009150791 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1000 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaking on republican TV, Latvian Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis has said that the Latvian national currency—Lats—could be introduced in the second half of the next year. In his words, the main goal now is to make the Lat convertible. At the first stage the internal convertibility of the Lat should be achieved, i.e. the possibility to exchange the Lat for any hard currency.

Lithuania

Landsbergis Insists on Troops Leaving by New Year

OW3009221391 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1550 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuanian Parliament Chairman Vytautas Lansbergis insists that the bulk of the Soviet armed forces stationed in Lithuania should leave the republic before the New Year. "We demand that the troops be withdrawn and we are not going to discuss the issue with the Soviet side," he stressed speaking on Lithuanian television yesterday. "If we fail to reach an agreement with the Soviet Union on the immediate withdrawal of its troops, we shall have to repeat our demand and even resort to pressure," he said.

He refused to accept the Soviet Government's reason for the delay, namely that the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Lithuania had to be postponed until the Soviet Union withdrew its troops from Eastern Europe and Germany, since this naturally involved serious problems for it, such as the provision of accommodaion and employment or the servlcemen and their families.

"The Soviet Union is trying to make us solve its problems for it. These problems should be solved by those who have created them, even though they may have done this fifty years ago," concluded Mr Landsbergis.

Commission Sets Work on Withdrawing Soviet Forces

OW0110012491 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2015 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A commission dealing with matters pertaining to the withdrawal of Soviet anti-aircraft units from Lithuania is to start work in the republic this week.

At the end of last week, the commander-in-chief of the Soviet Anti-Aircraft Forces, Anatoliy Ivanov, and other Soviet generals met Lithuanian Vice-Premier Zigmas Vaisvila in Vilnius. They discussed the transfer of buildings and equipment belonging to the anti- aircraft units stationed in Lithuania to the relevant defence structures now being formed in the republic.

Government Assesses Polish Minority Situation

LD0110095991 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2100 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Excerpts] An artificially inflated problem of Lithuania's Poles has recently, it seems, somewhat calmed down. This has been facilitated by the efforts of the Lithuanian leadership to solve practical problems of Eastern Lithuanian people. Tension has been reduced also by the dissemination of true information in Eastern Lithuania,

because people have been misled here and consciously set against the Republic of Lithuania and against the Lithuanians.

The results of the sociological poll carried out on 17-20 September in this part of Lithuania show that local Poles have understood the acceptance of the Lithuanian citizenship as their assimilation and compulsory Lithuanization. On the other hand, more than a half of the polled Poles and Russians in Eastern Lithuania are ready to take the Lithuanian citizenship and have a very favorable attitude toward the Lithuanian state. This poll was carried out on the orders of the Lithuanian Supreme Council by the sociologists of Vilnius University. Its precise results will be published next week.

Deputy Eugenijus Petrovas, heading a special Supreme Council commission which investigates the anti-constitutional activity of the councils of the Vilnius and Salcininkai rayons and the settlement of Snieckus, has established in the last few weeks that Eastern Lithuanian Poles have only now understood where they reside. Hitherto it used to be suggested to them that their land was a part of the Soviet Union, Belorussia, or Poland, but by no means of Lithuania. Apart from that, said Eugenijus Petrovas, the stand of these people cannot be identified with the stand of the nomenklatura which was in power. Simple people are far away from politics; they are interested in everyday matters—how to acquire property, where to obtain the Lithuanian citizen's certificate, and so on. Many rural inhabitants, according to this deputy, even today do not know that the councils of their rayons have been suspended. And how much hue and cry there was that this allegedly violated the rights of these people.

In my opinion, said Eugenijus Petrovas to Radio Vilnius, these people should be allowed time to think and decide about the citizenship. People have said at various meetings that the period of decision should be extended. As is known,, this period ends on 1 November. We are going to solve this problem at the corresponding Supreme Council commission, said the deputy, and most likely this period of time in Eastern Lithuanian will be extended.

Thus, it seems, the greatest trouble in that part of Lithuania has been and still is the lack of true and correct information. The parliamentary commission headed by Eugenijus Petrovas, which has been working for over a month, has experienced this very manifestly. The Polish press disseminated in this land has been very tendentious; in fact, it has been controlled by local authorities. Asked whether it would not be expedient to publish a new newspaper destined for the national minorities in the region, Eugenijus Petrovas replied that there was no need to hurry. At first it was essential to create an atmosphere of tolerance to each other, rally people, listen to their voice, and only then take one or another decision. The government-authorized persons and their services should help to disseminate true information.

As is known, on 7 September the Lithuanian Government appointed its authorized representatives in Salcininkai and Vilnius rayons and in the Snieckus settlement. [passage omitted] In positively [as heard] assessing these efforts by the government, one leader of the Polish faction in parliament, Zbigniew Balcewicz, thinks that a great harm has been done to the Lithuanian Poles, and it will be difficult to correct it. I will remind you that the Polish faction expressed itself against the Supreme Council decision to suspend the activity of the councils in Vilnius and Salcininkai rayons and the Snieckus settlement, regarding this step as the violation of democracy and human rights.

Our further actions, stated this parliamentarian, will depend on how the government-authorized representatuves will discharge their functions. We are going to watch their work very carefully. Zbigniew Balcewicz expressed his dissatisfaction that persons not of Polish nationality have been appointed to these posts, but Lithuanians. According to him, they not only do not understand the interests of the local residents, but also do not know their language. Such decisions, according to him, do not serve the common good and exacerbate the situation.

I asked this parliamentarian what could he propose in striving for mutual understanding:

[Begin Balcewicz recording] I do not see any possibility to reactivate these councils; this would not be expedient now. But we should announce new elections without delay. There are no grounds to deprive people of the right to govern their own territory; this is not democratic. At first the elections should be announced. Consulations should take place on who should govern during this period of time this territory. This would increase mutual trust and would help these people to take a decision and recover after all these difficult times. [end recording]

I would like to add here that both in Salcininkai and in Vilnius rayons all the lower councils—those in townlets and settlements—are operating. They have not been suspended. Therefore, it is incorrect to say that people have been deprived of their rights to govern on their territory. According to Eugenijus Petrovas, these councils are completely independent, and when necessary coordinate their decisions with the government representatives. The parliament commission headed by Eugenijus Petrovas is determined to cooperate with these councils and help them. As far as new elections to the councils of these rayons are concerned, the parliament commission is not ready to give a concrete answer when it would be best to hold them. The Supreme Council will examine this issue at the beginning of December; that is, three months after the suspension of the councils. It may happen, said Eugenijus Petrovas, that then it will be decided to hold the elections immediately. But that date can also be postponed. We hope that the elections will be held not later than in six months' time. On the other hand, I am against holding

them immediately, said Deputy Petrovas. His commission is examining the anti-constitutional activity of the councils of Salcininkai and Vilnius rayons and of the Snieckus settlement.

Economics Official Outlines Investment Needs

OW2809040891 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2032 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Report on interview with Antanas Cerniauskas, economic adviser at the permanent mission of the Lithuanian Republic in Moscow, by unidentified correspondent in Moscow: "Lithuania Gives High Priority to Foreign Capital Inflows"; date not given; from the "Business Weekly" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuania's integration into the world economy will be a time-consuming and complicated process. Although Lithuanian government is aware of the importance of cooperation with the republics that used to be part of the USSR, its main hopes are pinned on attracting foreign business, primarily private business, into the republic.

In an interview to an INTERFAX correspondent, Mr Antanas Cerniauskas, economic adviser at the Permanent Mission of the Lithuanian Republic in Moscow, has outlined the legal framework and economic prospects for foreign businessmen in Lithuania.

Until very recently, the bulk of Lithuania's foreign trade turnover (over 90), in spite of its formally declared independence, was carried out through centrally-run foreign trade associations.

Only 29 of the republic's 509 enterprises did business directly with their foreign partners in 1990. Their trade turnover amounted to only 78m convertible roubles, with imports accounting for Rb36.8m and exports—for Rb1.2m, which is 19% less than in 1989.

As of January 1, 1991, there were 89 joint ventures with foreign companies in the republic, of which 34 joint ventures with an authorised capital of Rb25.3m were actually in operation. Their foreign exchange earnings from product realisation over the previous year had totalled 8m convertible roubles.

The coordination of the republic's external economic ties is now the task of its Ministry of the Economy, which defines economic policies, registers firms, formulates rules of clearing settlements, sets import and export quotas, and is responsible for licencing. The republic's customs service has also been transferred to is jurisdiction.

Over 1990-1991, the republic's parliament and government have issued a package of laws and decrees spelling out guarantees for foreign investors and granting them a number of economic privileges.

Among these regulatory documents are laws on foreign investments, on joint ventures, on insurance, on regulations of import and export of goods, on privatisation of state property, and government decrees on temporary customs duties and on currency transactions. Legislation on joint stock companies, on taxation of income of legal entities, etc. has also been enacted.

Lithuania guarantees protection of lawful interests and rights of foreign investors.

The republic is also planning to use such mechanisms of foreign trade as clearing, barter, indicative bilateral lists of products, etc.

The republic will effect settlements and payments in accordance with internationally accepted trading and financial practices, primarily on the basis of contracts between business entities.

The government of Lithuania has prepared for potential investors a list of those key industries which are in need of foreign investment and which would enable investors to make a profit.

Volumes of Foreign Investment Industry Needed (millions of roubles, $1.00-0.58 rbl)

	Total	1991	1992-1995
Energy sector			
Modernisation of Mazeikiai oil refinery	250	150	100
Reconstruction of Klaipeda oil products export enterprise	20	—	20
Construction of a lubricants factory	15	—	15
Chemical industry "Azotas" plant	10	—	10
Maleic anhydride production at "Azotas" plant	24	—	24
Reconstruction of Siauliai tire repair factory	0.5	—	0.5
Shop for production of adhesive tape and packaging film at Kaunas interregional enterprise	20.0	0.5	0.5
Furniture and paper industry			
Upgrading of plywood production capacities at Klaipeda timber mill	1.5	0.5	1.0
Modernisation of two wood shavings pallet production lines at Kazlu Ruda woodworks	10.5	—	10.5
Retrofitting of furniture factories	10.0	2.0	8.0
Introduction of thermo-mechanical production of wood pulp at Klaipeda cardboard factory	12.0	—	12.0

Volumes of Foreign Investment Industry Needed (millions of roubles, $1.00-0.58 rbl) (Continued)

	Total	1991	1992-1995
Reconstruction of hard fiber pallet production	[no figures as received]		
Transport Upgrading of Helsinki-Warsaw highway	40	—	40
Modernisation of Klaipeda seaport	2	—	2
Communications			
Satellite communication systems	1.5	1.5	—
Copenhagen-Kaunas telephone/telegraph cable	1.0	1.0	—

Volumes of Foreign Investment Needed (millions of convertible roubles)

	Total	1991	1992-1995
Industry			
Construction of alternate communication networks	9.2	1.2	8.0
Automation of mail handling terminal at Vilnius airport	1.5	—	1.5
Mechanical engineering			
Manufacturing of 37cm screen TV tubes	56.0	10.0	46.0
Production of diesel tractors	236.0	5.0	231.0
Production of farm machinery	14.0	2.0	12.0
Production of farm produce processing machinery	30.0	5.2	24.8
Re-organisation of personal computer production facilities	40.0	14.0	26.0

Volumes of Foreign Investment Needed (millions of convertible roubles) (Continued)

	Total	1991	1992-1995
Light industry Chrome-tanned leather production	5.6	5.6	—
Production of medications and bio-preparations	15.0	—	15.0
Construction of a pharmaceutical factory	4.2	4.2	—
Food industry			
Reconstruction of sugar-refining plants	27.0	1.0	26.0
Production of cooking oil	2.8	1.2	1.6
Production of dry milk products	7.4	1.1	6.3
Construction of small meat-processing plants	4.0	0.8	3.2
Tourism			
Tourist hotel in Vilnius	20.0	—	20.0
Tourist hotel in Trakai	2.0	—	2.0
Tourist hotel in Druskininkai	2.0	—	2.0
Hotel with a business-centre in Vilnius	16.0	—	16.0
Hotel in Kaunas	12.9	9.9	3.0
Hotel in Klaipeda	25.0	—	25.0
Travel service centre in Klaipeda	6.0	—	6.0

All the above-mentioned projects and a number of others are supported by appropriate feasibility studies and provide opportunities for business cooperation.

International Affairs

Legislator on Bush Arms Initiative 'Compromise'

LD0110112391 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Report by correspondent Georgiy Sovtsov on remarks by Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic (RSFSR) Supreme Soviet's international affairs committee, on U.S. President George Bush's disarmament initiatives; from the "Information-Analytical" program]

[Text] Vladimir Lukin called Bush's decision a compromise, since for a very long time the U.S. leadership refused to include cruise missiles and seaborne nuclear weapons in the package of agreements on arms limitation. In the given situation, we must not let slip the opportunity to respond with our own initiatives, too. However, as the international affairs committee chairman pointed out, there are undoubtedly points that are worth discussing. For example, there are numerous warheads on strategic missiles, and greater reductions of them are envisaged for us, while leaving a considerable potential at sea with the United States. This point needs to be discussed. As for eliminating alert duties [boyevyye dezhurstva], this is what both our countries need. By doing this, we will calm world public opinion.

Lukin says the United States is extending a hand to us for a real alliance in the nuclear sphere and the strategic defense system. If we agree on this, we could be talking about creating a strategic defense system for the whole of mankind—that is, a situation will arise where we, together with the United States, Europe, and all democratic countries, will protect ourselves from people such as Saddam Husayn and others capable of destroying mankind Herostratus-fashion.

This chance must be used and used first in declaring nuclear-free republics within the former Union. While Russia is in favor of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, she is prepared temporarily to take on the obligations of a guarantor. Russia is also in favor of a stable situation over the question of the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, since the world needs a guarantee against nuclear terrorism and nuclear madness.

There also arises a serious problem to which, incidentally, the United States has drawn attention: Who will ratify the START Treaty, under which the USSR's strategic missiles will be reduced by approximately 30-40 percent? Answer: The Soviet Union or, in other words, the USSR Supreme Soviet. However, this must include all the republics who have declared their sovereignty and who have nuclear weapons on their territory. Thus, there is a de jure recognition of the fact of the proliferation of nuclear weapons by our country, yet we must not let this happen. As Vladimir Lukin said, here we must be on a level of responsibility; otherwise, we may find ourselves in a serious position in the face of world opinion, a position into which we are so persistently striving to fall.

Leadership Sends Congratulations Message to PRC

LD0110002491 Moscow TASS in English 2041 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow September 30 TASS—On behalf of the Russian Federation parliament, Ruslan Khasbulatov, acting chairman of the Russian parliament, in a telegram sent to Wan Li, chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress, conveyed "wishes of peace, prosperity and well-being to the Chinese people on the occasion of the 42d anniversary of the proclamation of the People's Republic of China."

The congratulatory telegram conveyed hope that "the traditionally friendly relations between our two countries will continue to develop in the name of the well-being of the peoples of Russia and China."

Khasbulatov Receives Japanese Delegation

LD2809150691 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1317 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow, 28 Sep (TASS)—Acting Chairman of Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet Ruslan Khasbulatov received a delegation of the Japanese Social Democratic Party headed by its Deputy General Secretary Tudzi Ito at the House of Soviets today. This was reported by the press service of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

In the course of the conversation at the request of the guests, Ruslan Khasbulatov provided a detailed analysis of the ways in which the social and political processes have developed in the country and the Russian Federation. Tudzi Ito reported on the decision by the Japanese Social Democratic Party leadership to send $100 million worth of humanitarian aid to the USSR apart from the government channels.

An exchange of opinions on a wide circle of issues of Soviet-Japanese and Russian-Japanese relations took place during the meeting.

Fedorov Calls For Kunadze Dismissal Over Kurils

LD3009174191 Moscow TASS in English 1302 GMT 30 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Belovitskiy]

[Text] Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk September 30 TASS—Chairman of the executive committee of the Sakhalin Council Valentin Fedorov has addressed a telegram to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, demanding the dismissal of Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Georgiy Kunadze as "a person who has discredited himself in the eyes of the public by his pro-Japanese stand." The regional boss has warned Yeltsin that a new seat of tension was brewing inside Russia, which, in his opinion, will undermine the people's faith in the Russian leadership.

A short-term strike was held today at a secondary school of Kurilsk, a town on Iturup Island, under the watchword: "We do not want to be refugees! Do not deprive us of our homeland! We want to live in the land of the Soviets—on Iturup Island!"

Iturup is one of the four islands of the South Kurils, claimed by Japan. It was visited the other day by Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Georgiy Kunadze, USSR People's Deputy Oleg Kalugin and member of the Human Rights Commission of the Russian Federation Sergey Sirotkin. During meetings with local inhabitants they outlined the current stand of the Russian leadership on the South Kurils issue. The Moscow guests' mission produced diverse reactions among the local population. However, most of it wants the borders fixed after the Second World War to remain in force.

Federation Affairs

Fourth Supreme Soviet Session Continues 1 Oct

To Discuss Revolution Celebrations

LD3009122591 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1200 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] The Russian Supreme Soviet Presidium press service reports that there will be a Presidium sitting at 1500 [1200 GMT] today, supposedly to discuss the question of celebrating the 74th anniversary of the October Revolution.

Accepts Bocharov Resignation

LD3009230491 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2100 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] The Presidium of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet has released Mikhail Bocharov from his post as chairman of the Supreme Enterprise Council, attached to the Supreme Soviet Presidium. It has also set up an interim commission headed by Sergey Krasavchenko, RSFSR people's deputy and chairman of the parliamentary committee on economic reform and property ownership, to assume day-to-day management of the Supreme Enterprise Council and to increase its efficiency. Bocharov handed in his resignation because, in his opinion, the Russian authorities have not accepted a single proposal drawn up by the council. Mikhail Bocharov will hold a news conference tomorrow.

Approves Draft Laws

LD0110093591 Moscow All-Union Radio First Program Radio-1 Network in Russian 2000 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] A routine sitting of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet Presidium, chaired by acting RSFSR Supreme Soviet Chairman Khasbulatov, was held today at the RSFSR House of Soviets. Drafts were submitted on legislative acts, the standing orders of the RSFSR Congress of People's Deputies, provisions concerning RSFSR people's deputies' assistants, RSFSR local referenda laws, amendments and addenda to RSFSR laws, and on referenda in the RSFSR. The presidium approved, in general, the draft resolution on the procedure and schedule for Supreme Soviet elections in the Karachayevo-Cherkessk Soviet Socialist Republic within the RSFSR.

At the suggestion of the Gosbank and RSFSR Finance Ministry, the terms of the 1991 RSFSR state republican internal loan were set.

Preparations for the forthcoming elections of heads of local authorities on 24 November were examined at the sitting, as well as other RSFSR state matters. The RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium today accepted the resignation of Mikhail Bocharov, chairman of Russia's Supreme Economic Committee.

Silayev Steps Down; Possible Candidates Discussed

Fedorov Comments on Proposal

PM3009130191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Sep 91 Union Edition p 1

[Report by M. Berger: "Who Will Head Russian Government"]

[Text] After Russian Premier Ivan Silayev agreed to take charge of the Interrepublic Economic Committee, lively discussion of the candidacies of his possible successors in the Russian Government has begun once again. Rumors are circulating regarding approximately 10 names such as, for instance, R. Khasbulatov; Silayev's deputies Yu. Skokov and O. Lobov; and Yu. Petrov, head of the Russian presidential apparatus. The name of the well-known ophthalmologist, Professor Svyatoslav Fedorov, cropped up as one of the most unexpected and interesting candidates. We decided to "study" this story and contacted Svyatoslav Nikolayevich.

"Late last week," S. Fedorov said, "I received a telephone call from Russian President Boris Yeltsin, asking how I would react to this proposal. I replied that if my program were accepted, I was ready to consider the proposal. Yeltsin said that he would talk to Gorbachev about this."

Prof. Svyatoslav Fedorov is one of the most outstanding figures in his field—ophthalmology. But his organizational activity or—one could say now—managerial talents have brought him as much renown as his medical practice.

Svyatoslav Fedorov considers himself a champion of people's capitalism, that is an effective market system, but one that is not so socially rigid as in the classical capitalist countries. In his opinion, in our country the class of owners that will render themselves, their fellow citizens, and their country rich and happy have the greatest potential for forming a middle class.

Fedorov reckons that at least 70 percent of property should be privatized and within a short period, moreover—about 18 months. Labor collectives that are to be offered their enterprises on preferential terms should have the best chances of being owners. He supports free prices, with the exception of a small range of vitally essential commodities. Developed organs of financial control should be set up, freedom of enterprise notwithstanding.

"I would like the Masters and Margaritas to lead a good life in our country and those who persecuted them a bad life," Prof. Fedorov remarked.

Economic Committee Official Comments

OW0110035691 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2158 GMT 30 Sep 91

[From the "Soviet Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The secretary of the Committee for the Economic Reform of the Republican Parliament Viktor Utkin says that the government of Russia may remain without a prime minister in the wake of Ivan Silayev's decision to step down on Friday.

The most likely candidates to the post include acting chairman of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] Supreme Soviet Ruslan Khasbulatov, economist Grigoriy Yavlinskiy and Russia's Economics Minister Yevgeniy Saburov. Hovever, many lawmakers say none of them has a comfortable advantage over the others.

State Council To Defend Rights of Russians

LD0110003691 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] An hour ago we received a document from the State Council under the president of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] that says:

Recently, the process of the disintegration of the former Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics has been accompanied in a number of regions by the encroachment of the rights of citizens who reside there permanently and who are linked ethnically with the peoples of the Russian Federation. In connection with this, the supreme bodies of state power of the RSFSR, the RSFSR president, and the RSFSR people's deputies are receiving appeals from citizens. Respecting the right of peoples to self-determination and the acts of independence of the republics, former subjects of the Soviet Union, proclaimed on the basis of the USSR, the RSFSR State Council confirms that the Russian Federation intends to use all legitimate forms and methods provided for by the norms of international law to defend the rights, life, honor, and worth of citizens of Russian and other nationalities, and of citizens from the Russian Federation living outside the RSFSR. For its part, the Russian Federation undertakes to strictly observe the above norms and procedures with respect to persons inhabiting its territory, regardless of their citizenship or nationality, says the statement by the State Council under the president of the Russian Federation.

Russian Social Democratic Party Issues Resolution

LD0110020591 Moscow TASS in English 2027 GMT 30 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Yuriy Soltys]

[Text] Moscow September 30 TASS—The elimination of the August putsch enabled the creation of an essentially new situation in the country, says a resolution of the plenary meeting of the Russian Social Democratic Party board held here today.

However, in the opinion of Social Democrats, reforms are going on under extremely difficult conditions, "a transition from crisis, in which the country stayed over all perestroyka years, to chaos and disintegration, is under way."

In this connection, party leaders offered their programme of actions. It includes the provision of proper living standards during the upcoming winter, the contribution to the soonest adoption of the draft new constitution of the Russian Federation, and "critical and adjusting support of efforts by the Russian president, who remains the main consolidating figure in all reform processes."

The Russian Social Democratic Party also believes it expedient that elections of a new Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation be held in 1992.

As for the economic and management sphere, the party proposed the following:

—To remove limits hampering the privatisation,
—To make large and medium enterprises joint stock ventures,
—To grant each citizen a certificate on the right to co-own society property,
—To give land to all those wishing to cultivate it,
—To obtain foreign credits to keep up bearable living of those infringed by the transition to a market economy,
—To use credits for large-scale purchases of foodstuffs and consumer goods,
—To reduce by two-thirds the military spending,
—To attract foreign capital to Russian economy,
—To contribute to the development of national capital and national enterprise.

Business Congress Criticizes Government Inaction

PM3009151191 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Sep 91 First Edition p 2

["Own Information" report: "Business Circles Call For Cooperation"]

[Text] The Congress of Russian Business Circles has issued a statement pointing out that the underestimation of the role and significance of entrepreneurial structures has been a serious braking factor en route to a market economy. Over the last four months the Russian Government has failed to adopt a single major act to move the sovereign state toward a new, more effective economic system. The executive's weakness is aggravated by the lack of coordination between the actions taken by the democratic section of the republic's government and the Supreme Soviet, and sometimes by profound contradictions.

The Congress of Business Circles, the document says, will definitely not accept the Russian leadership's marking time and expects more resolute legal and economic measures from it.

The congress suggested that all normative acts impeding the development of market relations in Russia be abrogated as a matter of urgency; that a package of laws ensuring the creation of a full-fledged market infrastructure be examined and adopted at a Supreme Soviet session; and that a joint session of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] State Council, the Supreme Soviet and Council of Ministers Presidiums, leaders of political parties and movements, and representatives of the republic's business circles and trade unions be held to formulate a unified action program to stabilize the economic situation in the peak crisis period of winter and spring 1992.

Defense Reserve Suggested for Yeltsin Dacha

PM0110081991 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Sep 91 First Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Zavidovo—Good Site for a Dacha"]

[Text] Tver Oblast—Colonel B. Kuznetsov, chief of the Zavidovo Reserve, has proposed that the USSR Defense Ministry hunting ground in that reserve be put at the disposal of the Russian president. He considers that the reserve's so-called central base has everything necessary for constructing a dacha for the Russian head of state here: reliable communication with any part of the country, electronic equipment, a helicopter landing area, and excellent conditions for relaxation.

The large hunting ground at Zavidovo has been standing empty for several years already. Recently demands have been voiced to transform Zavidovo into a recreation area. However, Colonel Kuznetsov views this prospect as the "kiss of death to this quiet, well-maintained corner." It is probably by way of an alternative that he has proposed that the hunting ground be placed at the disposal of the Russian president.

Local Affairs

Trade Unionists Promote Workers' Interests

LD0110032191 Moscow TASS in English 1553 GMT 30 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Yegorov]

[Text] Moscow September 30 TASS—Trade unionists of Bryansk, Kaluga, Ryazan and several other regions of central Russia have called on all Russians to launch a campaign in defence of workers' basic interests at the end of October and early in November. Their regional meeting, which has just ended, expressed concern about the deteriorating living conditions of working people. It declared: "Our strength lies in the consolidation of our ranks. Only such consolidation is able to stem social upheavals."

The autumn offensive of working people is mounting throughout the federation. It is headed by the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia. It is indicative that no demands for strikes are being voiced, because its participants realise the damage they cause to the national economy and are ready to use this means only as the last resort. They rely on civilised methods to settle outstanding problems.

In view of the session of the Russian Supreme Soviet, now underway in Moscow, the Association of Far Eastern Trade Unions has urged it to endorse urgently a package of legislative acts, facilitating the country's transition to market economy, above all laws on the indexation of the population's incomes, on collective bargaining agreements and on labour protection. The Far Eastern trade unionists back the demand of the Federation of Independent Russian Trade Unions that wages should keep up with market prices. They demanded a steady increase of the share of wages in the turned out product from 20 to 55-60 per cent.

The trade unions of Magadan, Kamchatka, Chita and other northern regions of Russia, as well as of the Yakutia Republic, want the current session to adopt a law on guarantees and compensation payments to people residing in the extreme north as proposed by the Federation of Independent Russian Trade Unions. As distinct from the bill, handed down from the "top", this version contains clear- cut norms, guaranteeing fair payment for the work done, decent pensioning and housing conditions for the northern population, adequate compensation for the cost of living in rigorous northern conditions.

Trade union meetings and rallies, held in recent days, imperatively call on the president of the Russian Federation to fulfill his promise and urgently issue a decree "on the legal protection of the work of trade unions in conditions of transition to a market economy."

Presidential Campaign Begins in Chechen-Ingush

LD0110022391 Moscow TASS in English 1518 GMT 30 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy September 30 TASS—The outward calm that has set in in the streets and squares of Groznyy does not mean that tension has been eased in the political life of the Chechen-Ingush Republic.

The meeting that has been held for three days outside the building of the republican government in support of the actions of the executive committee of the Chechen congress has ended.

The central thoroughfares have been unblocked. National Guard units, according to the Chechen congress executive, have gone to a country base and are barracks-accommodated. But individual units continue to guard several administrative buildings, the local television and radio.

Reports came in today that guardsmen seized several more buildings, specifically, the Young Pioneer Palace in Oktyabrskiy District of Groznyy. They explained to representatives of the district public education department that the building will house a hospital.

A presidential election campaign is already getting under way in the repulbic under the auspices of the Chechen congress executive despite resistance by many public organisations.

In several villages, meetings of citizens have nominated retired General Dzhakhar Dudayev, 46, leader of the National Movement, a candidate for the presidency.

The Supreme Provisional Council, which constitutes the legislative power in the republic, today adopted a presidential election law. The Chechen congress executive has requested all republics to send their observers to the presidential election that will be held on October 19.

Official Offers Help to Dnestr Conflict

OW0110022891 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2030 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Gennadiy Burbulis, secretary of state of the Russian Federation, said Russia was prepared to consider the participation of its representatives as mediators in negotiations on the settlement of the conflict in the Russian-speaking region along the Dnestr in Moldova.

In his statement published in Moscow on September 30, Mr. Burbulis says that the current events in the Dnestr region cause serious concern in the Russian Federation. "Historical experience has shown that no attempts to resolve any such conflict by force and through confrontation have ever brought either of the sides the results it has wanted. This is a sure road to an impasse," Mr Burbulis emphasises.

On behalf of state counsellors of the Russian Federation, Mr. Burbulis called upon both sides to refrain from violence. He expressed the hope that they would soon get round to negotiations and find peaceful solutions to all the issues.

Khabarovsk Kray Views Putsch Aftermath

OW0110002791 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0645 GMT 3 Sep 91

[Video report by Vladimir Voropayev; from the "Dalniy Vostok" program]

[Text] According to the decision of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Russia, by 1 September local soviets were to conduct evaluations of the actions of leaders of government bodies during the days of the putsch. Such sessions took place in the Far East soviets, and we offer you a chronicle of the extraordinary session of the Khabarovsk Kray Soviet.

[Begin Voropayev recording] This is the first day, 29 August. On the eve of the extraordinary session, the Presidium made an amendment to the agenda rejecting the wishy-washy wording on the political and economic situation. The deputies are faced with the task of discussing the matter of the work of the kray soviet and its leaders, and the implementation of the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] president's decrees during the period of the coup. The deputies agreed with the form of this question, but not all of them. On the opening day of the session, a statement was presented by a group of USSR, RSFSR, and the kray soviet peoples' deputies demanding the dismissal of the kray soviet chairman, his deputy and the chairman of the krayispolkom [kray executive committee]. The same day, the newspapers published the short-hand minutes of the meeting of the kray soviet presidium during the days of the putsch. These minutes revealed who adopted which position and those who decided to wait it out. The kray soviet stood accused, namely, of sluggishness and indecision. [end recording]

[Begin recording of video showing N.N. Danilyuk, chairman of the kray soviet addressing the session]

[Danilyuk] ...put forward conclusions, and later, the Presidium's position lies in the fact that—in line with the evaluation of actions during the period of the state coup that the session must give to the state bodies and its leaders, and equally to the leaders of institutions, organizations, and enterprises—it must examine the kray's social and political, and economic conditions, to decide measures needed to consolidate the victory of the democratic powers as is demanded by the decree of the president of the RSFSR, Comrade Yeltsin, and the Presidium of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet. The position

of a number of deputies within the renewal group consists of the following: To examine the responsibilities, conduct, and actions of the soviet chairman Danilyuk, and the chairman of the ispolkom Litvinov during the period of the state coup, as well as the disintegration of the kray's economy, having expressed their distrust of them. Individual deputies blame us for not carrying out an active policy of reform, specifically privatization and land reform. Besides this, I am accused of taking a definite stance in criticizing Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin and the government of Comrade Silayev; consequently, I do not have any moral right to occupy the post of chairman of the kray soviet.

I daresay, that without objective examination of these and other issues, that today one cannot evaluate how capable the kray soviet, and its presidium and organs, are of carrying out the tasks entrusted to them, and whether they justify the kray's faith in them. [video shows an unidentified session member addressing a question from the floor to Danilyuk]

[Member] What did you have in mind, when at the beginning of your address you said: We are victorious! Does this mean that you were on the same side of the barricades with the democrats, the word which you are saying through clenched teeth, as they say?

[Danilyuk] I reiterate my point of view—that we confused the democrats with the general movement that adhered itself to the democrats. Yes! I understand a democrat to be one who does not call for some kind of reprisals, some kind of extraordinary action. A democrat who abides by the laws, struggles for a legal state, and who does not commit any kind of slander, but adheres to the laws and only the laws. Today, to say that all that is consolidating in the growing democratic society in our state, in the Khabarovsk Kray included, are democrats, this I cannot say! [video shows L.B. Shkolnik, USSR peoples' deputy and USSR Supreme Soviet member addressing Danilyuk from the floor]

[Shkolnik] As one of the people who has, using your expression, adhered himself to the democrats, I would like to pose a question to you as a genuine democrat. Question one: I could not understand from your report on the meeting of the presidium of the kray soviet, whether decisions could not be made due to an absence of a quorum or whether due to an absence of a position?

[Danilyuk] The presidium was attended by 12 people. There was an absence of a quorum, and so no decisions could be made. At the same time, besides formulations, there was dissent on positions. Right now, short-hand minutes have been published, and the positions taken have been discussed at length. I could reiterate my position that I defended at the meeting; however, no decisions were made, and could not have been made, but discussions did take place. [video shows V.V. Litvinov, chairman of the Khabarovsk Kray Ispolkom on the rostrum]

[Litvinov] To ascribe something to someone made up from thin air, hearsay or lack of understanding simply should not be done. [video shows I.V. Galushko, RSFSR peoples' deputy speaking from the floor]

[Galushko] I understand that this session is not here to analyze criminal responsibility, but the political faith in the kray leadership. These are two different things. [video shows interview with S. Kamenev, kray soviet deputy]

[Kamenev] The state party machine prevails at this meeting. You can see for yourself. Many economic leaders have been invited here, and I consider that they have not been invited coincidentally, but for definite support. This sort of business is happening at all levels. [video shows interview with Y.M. Chichik, USSR peoples' deputy]

[Chichik] I am very satisfied that Comrade Danilyuk and Comrade Litvinov appeared at the beginning of today's session. The KGB chairman has just finished his address, and from the information that the deputies and I have gathered at the session, we understand that our kray leaders have consistently defended the position. [video shows Voropayev interviewing S. Byuller, kray soviet deputy]

[Byuller] This is a very complicated question, and first, one does not know how the situation would have developed had there been clearer orders from Moscow. Secondly, that our leaders acted conscientiously—this I doubt. [video cuts to Kamenev]

[Kamenev] What concerns conscience, I wanted to add, Comrade Danilyuk announced clearly and concisely in Comrade Obov's reception room, in the presence of leaders of the Far East krays and oblasts, that this was nothing less than a state coup. Having arrived in Khabarovsk on 20 August, and until 21 August, he could not determine what was happening, and to tell the inhabitants of the kray in his own words as to what was what. [video shows interview with V. Mikhaltsov, member of the kray soviet presidium]

[Mikhaltsov] In my opinion, today we are witnessing a political play organized by the leaders of the kray soviet. In essence, if our kray leaders in the moment of truth had not wrestled with their own consciences, they would have said: We are against KGChP [State Committee for the State of Emergency]. Then there would not have been any need for this session, and nothing would have happened. But now, the old nomenklatura which has been biding its time, which has always been apparently more cunning than the deputies, has now simply consolidated and is attempting to save their chairs. That is my deepest conviction. [video shows assembly]

[Voropayev] So, it is now day two, or the second act of the political play, as one of the kray deputies called this session. Well, if this is a play, how talented are the actors, how capable is the director, and is the play moving toward culmination and denouement? Here are a few

opinions from the kray soviet deputies and invited guests at the session. [video cuts to show Voropayev interviewing A.G. Tatarchenko, kray soviet deputy]

[Tatarchenko] August 19th and 20th were the peak of the coup, and no one knew which way it would turn. Indeed, it was then when one should have made a choice. Personally, I no longer have any faith in the leadership of the soviet power in the kray after the position they adopted in those critical minutes. Of course, now we can all claim that it was all beyond us. [video cuts to show Voropayev interviewing K.M. Yevtushenko, RSFSR peoples' deputy]

[Yevtushenko] The issue will be decided in one way, and that is to give a political evaluation of our soviet's actions, the leadership of the soviet to be more precise, during the critical three days. This is the only aim, on the one hand, but on the other, we will continue to have problems of whether we will freeze, have food, hunger, fuel, and all of our other problems. If today we fail to understand this....

[Voropayev, interrupting] ...that all this is tightly bound up with policies.

[Yevtushenko] Quite true, policies have determined all of our lives all the time, and not the reverse. My task as a Russian peoples' deputy consists of giving the people the opportunity, without any political ego, or ambitions and ideologies, to feed themselves.

[Voropayev] You took a direct part in the August events in Moscow, and purely from a humane point of view, could you be convinced by the justifying arguments presented today by the leaders of the kray soviet?

[Yevtushenko] I would like to be correctly understood. I am against witch hunts, please understand, but they cannot convince me, because the issue of the life of our people has been decided. This must be understood equally. Are we to be people or sheep? This is the fundamental issue.

[Voropayev] Whether a leader will make his decisions for the people or....

[Yevtushenko, interrupting] Quite right. That is why my position on this is synonymous, and I think that the person who does not support the people at the critical moment, such as we had, cannot continue to lead. [video cuts to show Voropayev interviewing V.I. Kshevin, kray peoples' deputy]

[Kshevin] I am not convinced by this torrent of words. It is enough to look closely at those short hand notes which have been published in all of our kray newspapers, and we will clearly see in them that, indeed, neither Danilyuk nor anyone else, gave direct support to the KGChP. I have listened to the recorded tapes [of the meeting] where Danilyuk said frankly that he does not support the KGChP. But today we must also say frankly that neither, the presidium nor Danilyuk, supported the Russian Government either. The reason I am saying this is that a member of the presidium, Deputy Yagov, has put the issue directly, that we must express support for Yeltsin and the RSFSR Supreme Soviet. And that this decision was not carried during the discussions at the presidium. What more can be said?

In my opinion, this session has not progressed. I have a very deep feeling of alarm that today's discussions have not taken the direction of fulfilling the Russian president's decree on evaluation of the kray leadership, but, through giving this evaluation, discrediting the very Democratic Movement which, on the whole, held out in Moscow and rose up in the city of Khabarovsk.

[Voropayev] But it is not victorious yet?

[Kshevin] Yes, it is not victorious. And this push to defeat the Democratic Movement within the kray, in my view, is the clear aim among some of the deputies of the Khabarovsk Kray Soviet. [video cuts to show the session with a caption announcing '30 August']

[Voropayev] Judging by everything the play is continuing. Those leaders of the kray soviet and the krayispolkom, to whom distrust has been expressed, continue to pretend not to understand the essence of these accusations. Indeed, their actions during the 19-21 August do not come under criminal law, and if there was this degree of responsibility, then there would no need for this type of session. But because there is a responsibility higher than the criminal level, that of the deputies to their constituents, and the responsibility of a person to his own concience, that sort of discussion is just not happening at this assembly. [video cuts to show Voropayev on the streets of Khabarovsk]

The session is continuing but it is difficult to say whether it is continuing the work, or is it continuing to stagnate. The voters can follow the debates in our kray parliament from the direct telecasts of the session, but nevertheless, having entrusted their vote to the deputies, they are denied the right to voice their opinion on the issue under discussion. Let us try to compensate for this a little. A word from the Khabarovsk citizens. [video cuts to show Voropayev interviewing an unidentified woman]

[Woman] My evaluation of the position taken by the deputies is not very sympathetic, because there is no unanimity. Because I am convinced that not all the deputies are expressing their opinions honestly. I have gathered the impession that many of the deputies are not honest about Danilyuk, despite the remarks and arguments put forward by many deputies about his position on the coup which has occured in the country. He did not immediately, [changes thought] no, not only not immediately but did not declare his position either way at all. Because I think it suited him to wait it out. [video cuts to show Voropayev interviewing an unidentified man]

[Unidentified man] Here, one must approach this issue seriously, one can not answer this immediately. There are people there who hold varying views. [video cuts to show Voropayev interviewing a second man]

[Second man] In all probability there is a battle of political strengths going on.

[Voropayev] And which political strengths should win, in your opinion?

[Second man] I think that the sensible powers should win. Those who will bring prosperity to our people. [video cuts to show Voropayev interviewing a third man]

[Third man] I consider that our kray soviet adopted a double-faced position. It did not give a full and immediate appreciation at the time of the meeting on the 21 August, and did not make a decision until the end of that meeting. By then it was too late.

[Voropayev] That is, you did not feel the support of the authorities.

[Third man] Yes. [video cuts to show Voropayev interviewing a fourth man]

[Fourth man] Individual speakers were very correctly saying that the position was best described as neutral. I am not touching you, you do not touch me, I am on the sidelines.

[Voropayev] But, is this right, to remain in this way at such a time?

[Fourth man] Of course it is basically not right, basically not right. That is why we need either to choose a new leadership, or if the old leadership remains, that it act more decisively in their own and the peoples' rights.

[Voropayev] So that they do not become remote from us, to feel where the majority stands, and with whom they are.

[Fourth man] This is the basic thing, that they are together with the people, so that they can sense the mood of the people. [video cuts to show Voropayev interviewing a fifth man]

[Fifth man] I do not trust the present leadership. [video cuts to show Voropayev interviewing a second woman]

[Second woman] There is an analysis of actions taken during the coup and our kray leaders' reactions to it, in progress.

[Voropayev] What is your opinion?

[Second woman] My opinion is that what is being said is true. They must be dismissed. Enough of their outrageous behavior. As it is, they do not do anything around the city.

[Voropayev] Therefore, you do not agree with the position the kray leaders have taken during the days of the coup?

[Second woman] That is right, I do not agree. Because they have behaved incorrectly. We were specifically waiting for the announcement when they would tell us what the matter is, and what is going on. We pensioners are sitting at home and are out of touch.

[Voropayev] Then, you are not convinced by the verbose explanations that they have acted correctly?

[Second woman] No, I am not convinced that they have acted correctly. It was not right. They should not have done it. They should have told the people directly that: Comrades, we are taking this, or that direction, we are following this path. [video cuts to show the session in progress]

[Voropayev] What path are we following, and does the kray body express the interests of the majority of voters? These are far from being idle questions. You see, many kray leaders did not hide their antipathy towards Yeltsin during the first Congress of the Peoples' Deputies of Russia, and on the eve of the presidential elections.

The leaders of the kray soviet and the krayispolkom took the initiative and, at the end of the session's second working day, made speeches tendering their personal resignations. This helped to divert the discussions from the main topic and to discuss the personal qualities of the RSFSR presidential representative appointed to the Khabarovsk Kray.

The third day, the 31 August, was the concluding day of the extraordinary session. The deputies carried the resolution for the dismissal of the presidium, but the leaders were left. The adjectives and cases of the resolution were discussed long and meticulously to have the least need for polishing. The extraordinary session of the Khabarovsk Kray Soviet worked under the tricolor flag of Russia. When there were, for the most part, only red flags, for many of us, the tricolor became a symbol of renewal. Now the new Russian flag has become the symbol of the democratic victory. Well, the flag is flying, but did democracy win in the Khabarovsk Kray? The question remains open for the moment. [end recording]

Bank Donates R5 Million to Moscow Financial Fund

PM0110082591 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Sep 91 p 1

[Announcement by N. Matuseyev, deputy chairman of the Agro-Industrial Bank Board: "Gift For Moscow"]

[Text] In order to repair the damage done to the Moscow economy as a result of the attempted coup and to give the city financial assistance, the country's biggest joint-stock commercial bank, the Agro-Industrial Bank, has paid 5 million rubles into the fund for the elimination of the aftermath of the coup, under Russian Central Bank transactions office account No. 700501.

[Signed] N. Matuseyev, deputy chairman of the Agro-Industrial Bank Board.

Communist Rule Persists in Tomsk Oblast

PM0110095591 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Sep 91 p 3

[Article by NARODNAYA TRIBUNA correspondent Anatoliy Zakharov: "Old Argument, New Tune"]

[Text] Tomsk—So Ligachev was right after all: He did build socialism in one oblast—and such a strong one that though the country collapsed and the CPSU has been abolished, it is still functioning in Tomsk. Not as a principle—from each according to his ability, to each according to his labor—but as a system of the absolute power of the nomenklatura, which just three years ago was proud of the powerful party organization nurtured by Ligachev.

At the elections to the last convocation of the oblast soviet, over two-thirds of the deputies were in the Communist Party. And whereas in four rayons in the oblast center not a single party worker was elected, 11 of the 16 rural rayons are represented by former party workers. Of those 11, nine are first secretaries of Communist Party rayon committees [raykoms] and city committees [gorkoms]. Leaving aside those secretaries who managed to "register" themselves as executive committee [ispolkom] leaders.

Is it any wonder, then, that the chairman of the oblast soviet is Viktor Kress, former first secretary of the Communist Party rural committee, who right until the August coup itself remained a member of the Russian Communist Party oblast committee [obkom]. The chairman of the Tomsk oblast soviet executive committee [oblispolkom] is a Ligachev nominee—former CPSU Central Committee worker R. Popadeykin. But after six months' work he "burned" his fingers on Tomsk timber. What happened was this: To exploit large tracts of burned, and I stress the word burned, timber, N. Nesterenko, former member of the Communist Party obkom bureau, created a joint venture with some foreign firms. The oblast soviet newspaper NARODNAYA TRIBUNA managed to uncover and publish a secret document signed by R. Popadeykin. Using the "burned" timber as a cover, the Rodvin-Toko joint venture set aside considerable areas of healthy timber. This was where the Central Committee worker's career ended.

In such a situation the nomenklatura could no longer ensure that "its" man would become oblispolkom chairman. An interim candidate was found. Oleg Kushelevskiy, leader of the "Vira" cooperative, who had aligned with the democrats at that time, was elected ispolkom chairman.

The first criticism of Oleg Kushelevskiy "from the left" was for various documents sent to Moscow on behalf of the oblast leadership bearing not only his signature and that of V. Kress but also that of A. Pomorov, first secretary of the CPSU obkom. In almost one year of work Kushelevskiy had still not managed to present a program for the socioeconomic development of the oblast. At first he stated he had one in mind. Then he came up with the following reason: Why write one down when no one knows who is going to become Russian president? The composition of the oblispolkom has still not been formulated or ratified. For the leadership those few members of the former party obkom working as O. Kushelevskiy's deputies are quite enough.

What about the soviet? Soviet chairman V. Kress, as a specialist, began running agriculture while the soviet's problems were ignored.

At the spring session the oblispolkom chairman managed, as he put it, to "push through" a decision on creating a committee to manage state property. He headed it himself. Since then everything has begun to belong to the oblispolkom. The division of property among soviets at various levels has still not happened. This is holding back the process of privatization and the creation of municipal property. A conflict has arisen between the Tomsk city soviet and oblast soviet on the grounds of property disputes.

Economic transformations, including the land reform, are proceeding with difficulty in the oblast. The Russian Government adopted a special decision on this matter. Kushelevskiy ordered that part of funded goods be transferred to commercial trade. The oblast statistical administration summed up the results—average prices in the oblast are 1.7 times higher than the Russian average. But commercial fever "gripped" the oblispolkom. The president of a trade-intermediary firm involved in it as a private individual became head of the special commercial department. The founders of this firm include the ispolkom in the form of its chairman. These facts prompted Oblast Soviet Deputy B. Shatrullin, member of the "Democratic Tomsk" group, to raise a question at a session—what is this if not corruption? Kushelevskiy took the deputy to court.

But the democrats did not give up: Increasingly often they have been charging the ispolkom chairman with incompetence. Actually, there was a reason for that: The ispolkom chairman's adviser on economic questions is a fourth-grade higher technical college student. His assistant is a student at the same college. Meanwhile, the chairman continues to reinforce his position. Recently a public opinion department was set up at the ispolkom. The democrats believe that this was done particularly to mount a pre-election campaign for the governorship on behalf of... the ispolkom chairman. Especially since July, Kushelevskiy's rating has risen sharply among Communists and separatists. At a meeting of "Siberian Accord," the association of Siberian cities, and Russian President Boris Yeltsin an anonymous document on the creation of a Siberian republic published only in Tomsk oblast was circulated. Who is the author of this document? Kushelevskiy avers: The idea came from Gorno-Altay Oblast. Its representatives, on the other hand, cite the leader of the Tomsk oblispolkom.

By decree of the RSFSR President, the well-known democrat S. Sulakshin has been appointed the president's personal representative in Tomsk Oblast. The local authorities retaliated. A delegation of representatives of the rayon and city soviet executive committees headed by O. Kushelevskiy went to Moscow. They managed to meet with B. Yeltsin and tried to present his representative's first steps there as unsuitable. Their demand was that it was essential to appoint someone else. At the same time they presented a candidate for another post—head of the administration in the oblast. It goes without saying that this was the oblispolkom chairman. Who is nominating him? Of the 14 rayon and city soviet executive committee chairmen present at the meetings with B.N. Yeltsin, 11 were former secretaries of Communist Party rayon and city committees.

Who will prove to be right this time? Boris or Yegor?

Vorkuta Intends To Secede From Komi SSR

PM3009134191 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Sep 91 First Edition p 2

[Report from the RIA/own correspondents news roundup under the "Around the Country—Via the Teletype" rubric: "Vorkuta Intends To Secede From Komi Soviet Socialist Republic"]

[Text] An action group has collected the requisite number of signatures from among city soviet deputies to enable the question of Vorkuta's secession from the Komi Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] and its transfer to Russian jurisdiction to be submitted to the session. This question will be examined 10 October.

Media

First Independent Private Radio Station Registered

LD3009110791 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1800 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] Russia's first independent private radio station "Rezonans" has been registered in the Moscow Soviet. Our slogan is "No politics," the radio's head editor (Danirina) said. The news on "Rezonans" will concern business, stock exchange news, trade proposals, and advertisements. The music program will cover a wide range. The first broadcast will be in the middle of October.

Belorussia

Kravchenko Terms Chernobyl Help 'Inadequate'

LD3009103291 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0448 GMT 28 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Nikolay Maslov]

[Text] United Nations, 28 Sep (TASS)—Foreign Minister Kravchenko, head of the Republic of Belarus delegation at the 46th UN General Assembly session, has called the help offered by central Union bodies for overcoming the consequences of the Chernobyl atomic power station disaster inadequate. Speaking on Friday [27 September] at a news conference at UN headquarters, he noted that the foreign policy aspect of such help appears beneficial only at a distance. In the past few years the center has allocated several billion rubles to Belarus, but this money—not supported by any material resources—has had little impact.

The minister continued: What we need is specialized help, the unique equipment that the Soviet Union does not have. Thus, the republic does not posess a single child tomography machine for the early diagnosis of oncological diseases. Several million dollars are needed to purchase such equipment. However, in the five years that have passed since the tragedy, the center has allocated only five million convertible rubles for the needs of public health in the republic, while its annual requirement is 75 million. At the same time, the main culprit of the Chernobyl tragedy—the USSR Atomic Energy Ministry, which continues to exist as a powerful bureaucratic system—received 650 million dollars in 1991 from its energy exports, which are paid for in convertible currency. Of this astronomical sum, Belarus has not received a single kopek. Answering the journalists' questions, the Belarusan minister talked in detail about the situation that has taken shape in Belarus during the transitional period. Among the most important changes that took place as a result of the work of the republican legislature, he noted depoliticization of the administrative structures as well as granting constitutional status to the declaration of state sovereignity adopted a year ago. At present, commissions created by the government are working out the mechanism for achieving real sovereignity and independence.

P. Kravchenko especially emphasized that Belarus, being a nuclear territory, has declared itself a non-nuclear state. The problem of stationing nuclear weapons on its territory will be examined, with consideration given to the opinions of all the interested sides. At the same time, the government and parliament of Belarus believe that control over nuclear weapons should be exercised from a single center.

Leading Western Firms Plan Fund for Economy

OW0110045791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2158 GMT 30 Sep 91

[From the "Soviet Business Report"; Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A number of leading firms and banks in the USA, Western Europe and Southeast Asia are going to establish a fund of $500 million to invest into the economy of the republic of Belarus (probably, this year).

To guarantee interest payment on these credits a Western bank will open an account to receive hard currency from the sale of raw materials from Belarus.

ROK Firms Ready To Invest in Modernization

OW2809041691 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2032 GMT 27 Sep 91

[From the "Business Weekly" feature; Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] South Korean firms are ready to invest in the modernisation of a number of industries in Belarus, former Belorussia, a republic in western part of the USSR.

Daewoo has agreed to start the production of microwave ovens within three months; Lucky Gold Star plans to produce cement, fertilizers and packaging materials for foodstuffs in Belarus. The latter is also to be involved in the modernisation of Horizon, a local TV-making plant.

An agreement on Belarus' cooperation with South Korean firms was reached during a recent visit by prime-minister Vyacheslav Kebich to South Korea.

Most Draftees To Be Permitted To Serve Locally

OW3009143491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1010 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] This autumn's draft in Belarus will greatly differ from the previous ones. The republic's military commandant Major-General Igor Litovchenko told IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent that about 80% of draftees, against the previous 20%, will remain to serve locally.

Leonid Privalov, deputy chairman of a parliamentary commission, confirmed these figures. He said they were coordinated with the USSR defence ministry.

Nevertheless, said L. Privalov, Belarus will seek to allow up to 90% of its draftees to serve locally. The rest will be conscription-age volunteers who express their desire to serve in the forces not stationed in Belarus, such as the Navy.

Ukraine

Dismantling Nuclear Arms 'Categorically' Opposed

LD3009211891 Moscow TASS in English 1536 GMT 30 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondent Dmitry Voskoboinikov]

[Text] London September 30 TASS—Because they fear Russia, Ukrainian legislators are no longer inclined to get rid of nuclear weapons deployed in this republic, although earlier the Ukraine held the opposite view, according to THE GUARDIAN's Jonathan Steel who talked to a number of prominent politicians in Kiev.

"We are categorically opposed to dismantling nuclear warheads," Deputy Chairman of the Ukrainian Parliament Ivan Plyushch told Steel.

"If we say 'take them away', where will they go? To Russia? Why?"

According to Plyushch, the elimination of nuclear weapons would cost a lot. He favoured vesting control over the Soviet nuclear weapons in a collective inter-republican body in charge of security matters.

Deputies representing the opposition Narodnaya Rada are likewise against losing nuclear weapons. One of the Rada leaders, Viktor Filenko, told the British journalist: most legislators think we cannot simply give these weapons away to Russia. In other words, we are afraid of Russia. We cannot say that a nuclear threat is there but they did make territorial claims recently."

Rada's defence spokesman Semyon Kolesnik was even more categorical in his conversation with THE GUARDIAN correspondent. "The declaration of Ukrainian independence, calling to make the republic nuclear-free, should be viewed in the long term. It is not a law".

Spokesman Outlines Foreign Policy Priorities

OW3009101191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0824 GMT 30 Sep 91

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature for "September 27, 1991" based on reports by diplomatic correspondents Alexander Blokhin, Igor Proshnev, and Vyacheslav Terekhov; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text]

The Ukraine's Foreign Policy Priorities

"The Ukraine is a European country, and it's unthinkable for it to be beyond the European process", said a spokesman for the Ukrainian foreign ministry. In an interview for DP's [Diplomatic Panorama] correspondent he outlined in detail the Ukraine's foreign policy priorities and its possible steps in that area. As soon as the declaration on the Ukraine's sovereignty was adopted, the chairman of the Ukrainian parliament L. Kravchuk sent messages to 27 countries described as being given prior attention in the Ukrainian foreign policy. These are first of all its neighbors, the states with Ukrainian communities, "newly industrialized countries", such as South Korea, Singapore and Malaysia, and states with which the Ukraine has traditionally developed intensive cooperation in different fields, such as Japan, India and China. According to the spokesman, the Ukraine will make its foreign policy steps in the near future in these directions, as well as in the direction of the U.N. and other international organizations.

Attitude to the Council of Foreign Ministers of Sovereign Republics (CFMSR)

With reference to the Ukraine's participation in the work of the CFMSR, the spokesman said that Kiev was one of those who called for establishing it as "a body designed to coordinate in real terms the efforts of republics of the former USSR in this extremely important and sensitive field of relations". The Ukrainian foreign minister invariably joins CFMSR sessions. Expressing his own viewpoint, the spokesman said: If the CFMSR manages to work as "a genuine coordinator and doesn't turn into one more screen for concealing the old attempts to do one thing and tell something different, it will become one of the possible and needed elements of interaction between the republics aimed at coordinating their efforts". But in order to achieve this it's necessary to devise a precise mechanism for its activity and clearly outline the powers and responsibilities of its members.

New Functions of the Ukrainian Mission in Moscow

The Ukrainian mission in Moscow has been transformed into the Ukrainian government's mission for external economic and cultural ties.

As DP has learned, it will be engaged in maintaining permanent relations with the interrepublican bodies of economic management and with the missions of other republics to protect the sovereign rights of the Ukraine. Besides, the Ukrainian mission will maintain contacts with the embassies and missions of other countries accredited in Moscow.

Commission Examines Transfer of Communist Monies

PM0110093191 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Sep 91 p 2

[Report by TASS-INTERFAX under the "Information: Panorama of the Country" rubric: "Where the Party's Money Has Gone"']

[Text] Before the actual ban on the Ukrainian Communist Party's activity and the seizure of its bank accounts, party committees transferred money not only to the accounts of enterprises but also of private individuals. That is what Taras Stetskiv, member of the provisional Supreme Soviet deputies' commission on the nationalization of the property of the Communist Party and the Komsomol [All-Union Lenin Communist Youth League] on Ukrainian territory, stated in an interview for the newspaper MOLODOST UKRAINY.

The deputies' commission is also examining the question of who gave the order to transfer the Communist Party Central Committee's vehicle base plus all its staff and the director to the Supreme Soviet and to dismiss all the workers who used to service this area. Now the affected

staffers of the Supreme Soviet's economic services have appealed to the legislative commission to get them their jobs back.

Moldova

Turkey Will Not 'Interfere' in Moldovan Problems

NC3009103491 Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 24 Sep 91 p 17

[Cenk Baslamis report: "A Promise of Aid to the Gagauz People"]

[Text] Moscow—The Turkish Foreign Ministry has become more active following the developments in the Soviet Union after the unsuccessful coup attempt. A Foreign Ministry delegation is currently visiting the Central Asian republics. Another delegation is in Moldova, where the Gagauz people, who are of Turkic origin, live. The members of the delegation in Moldova held talks with officials in Kishinev and visited Komrat to meet with the Gagauz people. The Turkish delegation is made up of Ogan Soysal, chief adviser to the Prime Ministry; Etfal Yurday, head of the Administrative Affairs Department of the Prime Ministry; Ambassador Ismet Birsel, director of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs Cultural Relations Department; and Tarik Yalmac, under secretary of the Turkish Embassy in Moscow. The delegation held a two-hour meeting with 35 representatives of the Gagauz people, including Georgiy Ratkooglu, presidential secretary, and Andrey Buyuklu, mayor of Komrat. The Gagauz people declared their independence two days ago.

The Turkish delegation informed the Gagauz people that they were in the area to study the situation of the Turkic people following the latest developments in the Soviet Union. The representatives of the Gagauz people, however, asked for help to secure the release of President Stefan Topal and Vice President Mikhail Kendigelen, who are being detained in Kishinev.

The delegation urged the people to resolve their disputes with the Moldovan Government through negotiations. They also promised to provide economic aid and cultural support. The delegation said that the Ukraine and Moldova will participate in the Black Sea Economic Cooperation project and said that Turkey will be able to provide economic aid to the Gagauz people within the framework of this project.

The Turkish delegation is also reported to have informed Moldovan officials in Kishinev that Turkey will not interfere in problems between the Moldovan Government and the Gagauz people but that it cannot remain silent if force is used.

Soviet Army Withdrawal, Noninterference Discussed

PM3009113191 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Sep 91 First Edition p 2

[Report by Colonel N. Mulyar: "Troop Withdrawal Question Postponed"]

[Text] Kishinev—A meeting has been held between Moldovan Prime Minister V. Muravski and the leadership of the Odessa Military District and commanders of units located on the republic's territory.

The prime minister said that, despite the fact that Moldovan President M. Snegur issued a decree 3 September setting up Moldovan armed forces (paragraph three of the decree states: "Talks shall be initiated with the Soviet leadership in order to settle issues pertaining to the Soviet Army's withdrawal from Moldovan territory and its replacement by Moldovan armed forces formations"), they are not currently raising the question of a troop withdrawal, realizing that it would require considerable material expenditure and a lot of time. But work is underway in this direction.

It was also stated that officers who wish to remain in Moldova after their discharge to the reserve will, like other categories of the population, be granted citizenship and will not have their rights infringed.

The meeting also examined the question of the deteriorating situation in the Dnestr region. A request was made to the military not to interfere in the republic's internal affairs, to strictly observe the USSR defense minister's instructions on this issue, and to strengthen the guard over weapons so as to ensure that they do not fall into the population's hands.

Conflict in Dnestr Region Still Unresolved

Republican Guard Formed

LD3009134791 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1300 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Video report by correspondents M. Zotov and V. Molchanov—captioned; from the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] [Zotov] The names of the Dnestr area towns of Rybnitsa, Grigoriopol, Dubossary and Tiraspol have of late been appearing more and more frequently in the reports of the world news services. The statement by the leadership of the Republic of Moldova that Moldova is not thinking of joining with Romania is regarded here as little more than a tactical move, and therefore the Supreme Soviet of the Left Bank area decided to set up the Dnestr republican guards. [Video shows street scenes; Molchanov interview with V.M. Rylenko, chairman of the Dnestr area defense committee—captioned]

[Molchanov] At the 18 September session of your Supreme Soviet you were appointed chairman of the

Dnestr Republic's defense committee. What kind of a committee is it, and what will you be engaged in?

[Rylenko] The inhabitants of the Dnestr area link themselves with the whole Union. In order therefore to preserve this link, preserve the military commissariats, the military and Union structures, and at the same time secure the defense of our republic and the protection of our territory, there were proposals to set up a committee which would include links with the military commissariats in order to coordinate the activities of the military commissariats and the armed forces, specifically, the units located in the territory of the Dnestr area. Services—territorial combined detachments—have been created to handle emergencies such as flooding and earthquakes. Those not wishing to serve in the armed forces of the USSR will perform alternative service in the Dnestr Republican Guards in our area.

Russian Deputies Meet Snegur

LD3009130991 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1125 GMT 30 Sep 91

[By TASS correspondents Fedor Angeli and Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Kishinev, 30 Sep (TASS)—A group of Russian deputies has arrived in Moldova and met with the republic's president, Mircha Snegur. During the conversation he declared that the delegation could play a major part in the solution of many questions contributing to a united Moldova.

TASS correspondents have learned from reliable sources that the first meeting—lasting five hours—between representatives of the official authorities of Moldova, led by Viktor Pushkashu, deputy chairman of the republic's Supreme Soviet and representatives of the Dnestr Republic, has been held in the village of Parkany, on the banks of the Dnestr. They discussed the conflict in Dubossary, the withdrawal from there of Special Purpose Militia Detachment [OMON] forces and the workers' detachments supporting the Dnestr Republic authorities; the reopening of blocked railway lines in a number of places in the republic, and the freeing of arrested deputies. The sides agreed to hold further meetings in the near future.

In Dubossary, however, the situation remains alarming. The town is full of police and OMON subunits, including some who arrived last night. The streets are heavily patrolled. No special activity is noticeable, but it is is difficult to move through the town. Meetings are being held today in towns and villages of the Dnestr Republic in support of the inhabitants of Dubossary, and a solidarity march to the town is planned. People are awaiting the arrival of the delegations of the legislatures of Russia, Moldova and the Dnestr Republic who took part in yesterday's talks in Tiraspol. After another sleepless night they are hoping that today will bring a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Bendery Rail Blockade Resumed

OW3009191791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Women activists in Bendery resumed the railroad blockade at 3pm on Monday [30 September] after the Moldovan authorities refused to release the arrested Dnestr parliamentarians.

In spite of the existing agreement not to build up forces in the Dubossary district, a march on Dubossary is due to begin one of these days. The Moldovan leaders have been assured, however, that the marchers will be unarmed. The head of the inter-ethnic relations committee of the Moldovan parliament said [that] since the withdrawal of OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] troops was due to begin Monday, the planned peace march was "unnecessary." Moldovan negotiators are still conducting talks in Dubossary.

People in the Dnestr Republic are pinning considerable hopes on the mediatory efforts of the RSFSR parliamentary delegation which arrived in Tiraspol on Sunday [29 September] to discuss with the local leadership the detained MPs' release and ways of stabilizing the situation in and around Dubossary.

Kishinev, evidently unwilling to let a third party interfere in Moldova's internal conflict, has shown a reserved reaction to the delegation's arrival.

Dnestr activists insist their republic's proclamation was in full compliance with the RSFSR law restoring the rights of the ethnic minorities unlawfully repressed by Stalin. (The Moldovan autonomous republic was liquidated on the left bank of the Dnestr in 1940.)

OMON Forces Concentrate in Region

LD0110004391 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1912 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Moscow, 30 Sep (TASS)—The situation in the Dnestr region remains tense. According to TASS correspondents' reports reaching here, several thousand police, Special Purpose Militia Detachment officers, and volunteers are concentrated in the town of Dubossary and its outskirts. They are carrying out thorough checks on the movements of people and transport. It has emerged from reliable sources that a state of emergency may be introduced in the town. Meanwhile, a meeting between legislators from Russia, Moldova, and the Dnestr region is continuing. Russian and Moldovan delegations are expected to leave for Kishinev, the capital of Moldova, for consultations with the republic's leaders.

According to reports from Tiraspol and Bendery, the railway blockade has resumed after a three-day break. Its aim is the release of arrested deputies from the Dnestr region and the Gagauz region.

A statement by Gennadiy Burbulis, Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic state secretary, was distributed today. It expresses the hope that the conflicting sides will very soon hold talks and manage to resolve existing differences by peaceful means.

Police Officers Dismissed

OW3009221091 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1630 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Moldova's Interior Minister I. n Kostas has dismissed a number of policemen in Kamenka and Rybnitsa and stripped them of their officers' ranks for crossing ove .o the side of the Dnestr separatists.

The minister intends to put the officers on trial on charges of betraying the Moldovan Interior Ministry's interests violating the republic's constitution and other laws, and supporting the "criminal plans" of the separatists.

Social Democratic Party in Dnestr Region Organizes

PM3009144391 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Sep 91 Single Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Independent Social Democratic Party Set Up in Dnestr Region"]

[Text] A conference of the region's communists held in Tiraspol last Saturday [28 September] yielded several decisions. An organizational committee was set up to prepare for and stage the new party's first congress in December. Interim statutes and a programmatic statement were adopted. The conference delegates appealed to Russian and Ukrainian deputies to help stabilize the situation in the Dnestr region.

Georgia

Gamsakhurdia Blames Opposition for Talks Failure

OW0110044491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2158 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The press centre of President Gamsakhurdia, of the southern republic of Georgia, has accused the opposition of frustrating last week's talks to normalize the situation in the republic. The authorities say that the opposition's demands (the resignation of President Gamsakhurdia and the abolition of presidency as such) "disagreed with the subject matter of the talks".

"In this situation Georgia's leadership reserves the right to act in keeping with the constitution and to employ all the legal means to restore order to Tbilisi", the presidential press service said.

Opposition Wants 'Real Guarantees' for Democracy

LD3009141691 Moscow Central Television First Program Network in Russian 1300 GMT 30 Sep 91

[From the "Television News Service" program]

[Text] Leading the news is a report from Tbilisi that we received from IPRINDA agency correspondents: Zviad Gamsakhurdia has again demanded that the opposition be disarmed, which, in turn, has stated that it will not surrender its weapons until there are real guarantees for democratic changes in Georgia. Republican Foreign Minister Omanidze, who is acting as first deputy prime minister, has promised to carry out the journalists' demands to make independent, objective information available to agencies; to remove (Kvanteliani), head of the television and radio department; and to elect a provisional collegium from among journalists for running the mass media.

Gamsakhurdia Urges Peaceful March on TV Center

OW3009191491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Georgia's President Zviad Gamsakhurdia urged several thousand people who rallied in his support outside parliament on Monday to "launch a peaceful march and take over the putschists' barricades near the TV center." He stressed that the marchers should be strictly non-aggressive.

In response to his call, a large column set out towards Tbilisi university to pick up more of Gamsakhurdia's followers and proceed to the TV center.

On Monday, the presidential press center accused the opposition of disrupting the normalization talks in the Justice Ministry in Tbilisi on Saturday and Sunday. The authorities maintain the opposition advanced demands that were "at odds with the subject matter of the talks." (The opposition is known to be pressing for Gamsakhurdia's resignation and the scrapping of the republican presidency as such.)

Under the circumstances, the Georgian leadership reserves the right to act in compliance with the constitution and resort to all legal means to restore law and civil peace in Tbilisi, the press center's statement says.

Further on 'Peaceful Storming'

LD3009201291 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] INTERFAX has reported that Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, speaking to a rally of thousands of supporters near the parliament today, has called for the barricades of the putschists near the Georgian Television building to be taken by a peaceful march, a peaceful storming.

INTERFAX reported from Tbilisi that Gamsakhurdia stressed that the march will take no aggressive actions.

After the president's address, a column of people moved toward the university to unite with other Gamsakhurdia supporters and to proceed together to the Television Center.

Several Clashes Near TV Center

AU0110084491 Paris AFP in English 0809 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Tbilisi, Soviet Union, Oct 1 (AFP)—Automatic weapons fire was heard before dawn Tuesday in Tbilisi, capital of Soviet Georgia, near the television station where opponents of President Zviad Gamsakhurdia have set up their headquarters. Shots were also heard in another part of the city. There were no casualties reported in either case.

The opposition said the shots fired around 4:40 a.m. (0140 GMT) were a "fresh provocation" by supporters of Gamsakhurdia, whom they accuse of running Georgia like a dictator. But the Georgian president' press service said it was the opposition forces who had opened fire first on a military vehicle transporting militia in the vicinity of the television station.

Supporters and opponents of Gamsakhurdia staged rival demonstrations here on Monday after talks between the two camps broke down. Some 15,000 people assembled outside the parliament building, where Gamsakhurdia is holding out, in a show of support for the beleaguered president.

Gamsakhurdia said the talks had been called off because the opposition had refused to hand over their arms. The Georgian nationalist leader, although popularly elected earlier this year, has triggered widespread discontent in the republic.

PRAVDA Views Political Developments

PM3009145991 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Sep 91 Single Edition p 1

[PRAVDA special correspondent V. Andreyev report under general headline "From the Hot Spots. ...Fall. Guns Firing": "Georgia"]

[Excerpt] 29 Sep—[Passage omitted] The first phase of the talks between the opposition and the republic's leadership began Saturday afternoon. Four representatives from each side discussed a plan for future meetings. The opposition's demands remain the same, although no longer in the form of such ultimatums.

Former Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua, answering a question from PRAVDA's correspondent, ranked first the demand for the parliament to examine the situation in the republic with an obligatory relay of the session. He also said that the opposition is not demanding Gamsakhurdia's resignation as president but is pressing for the abolition of presidential rule. According to him, the question of the presidency should be settled by a nationwide referendum. The opposition also demanded that new parliamentary elections be held, because in their opinion, the alignment of political forces in the republic no longer matches the prevailing social situation.

Predicting how events will develop if the talks are unsuccessful, Sigua said that the opposition reserves the right to hold rallies and demonstrations and secure its goals peacefully.

I would like to hope that the opposing sides will give preference to peaceful dialogue. But on the evening of 28 September the republic's deputy defense minister, Besik Kutateladze, announced some unpleasant news at a rally. Vazha Adamiya's people—he was recently relieved of his post as chairman of a parliamentary commission—have taken hostage the mother of Merab Kostava, the deceased friend of President Gamsakhurdia. An armored personnel carrier now stands outside Kostava's house and Adamiya's people have taken up position in tents near the house. Talks with them have as yet borne no fruit. One thing is clear: This action was taken with a view to putting pressure on the president. On the same night—Saturday-Sunday—there was shooting outside the opposition headquarters and one guardsman was slightly injured.

In short, the emergent political rapprochement is extremely shaky.

Gamsakhurdia Creates National Security Council

AU0110094191 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 24 Sep 91 p 1

["Decree of the President of the Republic of Georgia on the Creation of a National Security Council Subordinate to the President of the Republic of Georgia" issued in Tbilisi on 21 September]

[Text] With the aims of guaranteeing the territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia, its independence and sovereignty, exercising command of the Armed Forces, regulating ethnic conflicts, ensuring the observance of law and order from the point of view of national security, overcoming emergency situations that have arisen in the republic as a result of natural phenomena, and efficiently resolving other problems:

1. To create a National Security Council subordinate to the president of the Republic of Georgia.

2. To establish the composition of the National Security Council as follows:

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL: [as published]

Z. Gamsakhurdia—president of the Republic of Georgia

DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF THE COUNCIL: [as published]

A. Asatiani—chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Georgia

V. Gugushvili—prime minister of the Republic of Georgia

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL: [as published]

Z. Bokuchava—consultant for the president of the Republic of Georgia—secretary of the council,

T. Vashadze—deputy minister for architecture and construction of the Republic of Georgia,

N. Giorgadze—first deputy minister of defense of the Republic of Georgia,

D. Goletiani—deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Georgia

V. Kobaliya—head of the Main Directorate of the National Guard of the Republic of Georgia

B. Kutateladze—deputy minister of defense of the Republic of Georgia,

N. Molodinashvili—temporary acting head of the Bureau of Local Administration of the Apparatus of the President of the Republic of Georgia, deputy of the Supreme Council,

T. Ninua—acting chairman of the Committee for State Security of the Republic of Georgia,

M. Omanidze—first deputy prime minister of the Republic of Georgia, minister of foreign affairs,

K. Pirtskhalava—deputy of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Georgia,

D. Pirtskhalaishvili—minister of defense of the Republic of Georgia,

V. Razmadze—procurator general of the Republic of Georgia,

F. Tkebuchava—minister of communications of the Republic of Georgia,

D. Khabuliani—minister of internal affairs of the Republic of Georgia,

D. Khetsuriani—minister of justice of the Republic of Georgia.

[Signed] Zviad Gamsakhurdia, president of the Republic of Georgia

[Date] Tbilisi, 21 September 1991.

Gamsakhurdia Comments on Conspiracy Theory

PM0110090091 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 27 Sep 91 p 13

[Interview with Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia by Alberto Stabile in Tbilisi; date not given]

[Excerpt] Tbilisi—[Passage omitted] [Stabile] Mr. President, what will you do if the national guard refuses to hand over its weapons when the ultimatum expires?

[Gamsakhurdia] It is not a national guard. It is a former division of the national guard. As you know, the guard sided with me, except for 500-600 people headed by former commander Kitovani. This is the gang that is committing so many crimes. Unless they obey the ultimatum we will do everything we can to disarm them. We will try to avert bloodshed, but we will have to take some kind of measure.

[Stabile] You have accused the center of hatching a plot against you. What do you mean by the center—Yeltsin, Gorbachev, or who else?

[Gamsakhurdia] We have information that former Foreign Minister Shevardnadze took an active part in this conspiracy. And perhaps there is someone else behind him.

[Stabile] From whom did you receive this information?

[Gamsakhurdia] The plotters themselves state openly at their meetings that Shevardnadze supports them.

[Stabile] But what does Shevardnadze stand to gain?

[Gamsakhurdia] He is a servant of the center. Perhaps he has ben instructed to prevent Georgia's separation from the USSR at all costs.

[Stabile] Gorbachev has said that he is worried about what is happening in Georgia. What do you think this anxiety signifies?

[Gamsakhurdia] It means that their plans are being thwarted. They hoped that people would support the coup. They wanted my resignation. But they did not succeed, and they will lose Georgia for good.

[Stabile] You are accusing Gorbachev...

[Gamsakhurdia] Gorbachev is opposed to Georgia's independence, and Shevardnadze is his right-hand man.

[Stabile] Do you think Russia still poses a threat to Georgia?

[Gamsakhurdia] There are some chauvinistic forces in the Russian parliament, and some individual deputies—the so-called democrats—are very aggressive toward Georgia. Such as Yelena Bonner. Mrs. Bonner has said that "it was Gorbachev's fault that we lost the Caucasus, which is very important to us for geopolitical reasons. This is why," she added, "we must keep at least Armenia. Because otherwise we will become a nonentity." These are the typical feelings of Russia's so-called democrats. For them, Georgia is just a holiday resort.

[Stabile] With the country split, parliament at a standstill, and a state of siege in the capital, how long do you think the republic can survive?

[Gamsakhurdia] The country is not split. It is united. Only here a small part is split. But the great majority of the people do not support the putschists. Only 3,000-4,000 people out of a total of 5 million inhabitants. That's nothing.

[Stabile] Declaring a state of emergency, preventing the opposition from appearing on television—does not all this constitute an authoritarian stance?

[Gamsakhurdia] No, no, it's not like that. We give everyone a chance to speak out, within an ethical and legal framework. There is the law on parties, and we want it to be observed. There is the law on the press, and we want it to be observed, too. They say, however, that we are violating the law and the constitution. But they cannot be described as the opposition; they are putschists who want to bring down the government elected by the people. A democratic opposition observes the law and does not demand resignations.

[Stabile] But if parliament is blocked, how can this democratic opposition express itself?

[Gamsakhurdia] Parliament is not blocked. There has been a long session. It will soon resume its normal work.

[Stabile] You said: independence now, democracy later. What does democracy mean to you?

[Gamsakhurdia] I never said that. I have always said, and I still repeat, that independence and democracy must go hand in hand. But democracy must not be turned into anarchy, by laying siege to the television station, filling the city with barricades, and beating on people in the streets. Democracy means observance of constitutional legality: demos-cratos, not hooliganocracy or vandalocracy...

[Stabile] Do you think it is democratic to have oppositionists arrested?

[Gamsakhurdia] When the opposition commits vandalistic acts, blocks the roads and fills them with trash, what kind of opposition is that? I wrote a letter to the American Congress to point out that violators of article 240 of the U.S. code are arrested. What would the Italian police do if so-called oppositionists were to erect barricades?

[Stabile] Why did you write to the American Congress?

[Gamsakhurdia] Because they wanted to know what the arrested person was accused of (Guia Chanturia, democratic national party leader, was arrested 10 days ago while flying to Moscow to meet with Russian Vice President Rutskoy and the U.S. ambassador. The scheduled flight on which he was traveling was made to turn back to Tbilisi after 20 minutes in the air—LA REPUBBLICA editor's note).

[Stabile] Chanturia and many others long regarded you as a reference point, they were your friends...

[Gamsakhurdia] They were not my friends; we fought together. Then they committed destructive actions. But I cannot forgive crimes just because they were committed by people with whom I have had some contact. Nor can I prevent justice from arresting them. I am sometimes accused of breaking the law because I am too indulgent.

[Stabile] You have said of yourself: "I have no opponents, but enemies." Do you feel persecuted?

[Gamsakhurdia] No. Some are just criminals. Of course there is also an opposition that behaves in a civilized way.

[Stabile] What is your response to the criticisms made of you in the West? Some have compared you to Saddam Husayn...

[Gamsakhurdia] I reply to my critics that they should come and see what is happening here. As for the comparison, these are Moscow's accounts. Do you think Husayn would have tolerated in Iraq that which is happening in Georgia?

Georgian Paper Reports Gamsakhurdia 15 Sep Speech

AU0110112391 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 17 Sep 91 p 1

["Speech delivered by Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia at the session of the Republic of Georgia Supreme Council on 15 September 1991" in Tbilisi]

[Text] In the first instance, I am addressing the representatives of the opposition. I am addressing you as I recognize you as the parliamentary opposition and your right to defend the views of the opposition and to implement constructive proposals if they serve the good of Georgia. I do not recognize any other street opposition that does not exist anywhere in cultured and civilized countries. I think that you will agree with me on this point. If we want to enter into dialogue with someone, it should be precisely with you within the framework and forms of ethics and culture. This is because you conduct yourselves as befits parliamentarians; you do not spread garbage onto the streets and do not allow yourselves to engage in unworthy excesses characteristic of hooligans. I address you in all seriousness and your right to respond to, accept or reject my conclusions.

The essence of democracy, as you know better than I, lies in the supremacy of the government that has been elected by the people and in the supremacy of the laws that have been adopted by this government following broad discussions and approval by the people and by all sectors of society.

I believe that there cannot be any other understanding of democracy.

If, today, we have the status of supreme government and, say someone does not like this government, still, the decisions of this government and the supremacy of the laws issued by it cannot be ignored. Indeed, the birth of these laws is a complex process; it involves heated debates and constructive proposals from the opposition are often taken into account. After all, isn't a parliamentary decision one that is passed by a majority of votes? I do not understand why protest should be expressed through hunger strikes and other destructive actions.

Isn't this surely a manifestation of dictatorial trends? Let us take today's decision; I believe that the president has not imposed this on anyone and one cannot claim that there has been complicity among the deputies and parliament. Therefore, I appeal to each one of you to find a common language. A long friendship binds me to some of you despite the fact that we represent opposing sides; incidentally, this worries me very much. Recall everything good that binds us, everything that has helped us in the struggle for the future happiness of Georgia. Recall the difficult minutes, hours, days, years that we have gone through together. We marched shoulder to shoulder along the path of the national struggle. Let us now try to find a common language. I urge you to do this! I urge you not because some kind of danger is, so to speak, threatening me or my post. This is not the case, friends.

I think that you will agree with me that Georgia is facing the greatest danger. Believe me, if we together with the opposition do not resolve the urgent political problems soon, one can say in the forthcoming hours and minutes, this will lead to catastrophic results. All the more so, and this is the most important thing, as a third force is already dictating [to us] and claiming priority in the resolution of these problems. A third force is already shamelessly declaring that it will resolve this conflict. Don't you agree with me, friends? I believe that yesterday's speech by Nodar Natadze [leader of the Popular Front and the parliamentary opposition faction Democratic Center] and his statement confirm this. A third force is preparing to resolve for us and for you Georgia's internal problems and how it can do this is well known to everyone. Therefore, we in parliament must condemn

such irresponsible conduct on the part of these youths. Let's address them with a proposal from parliament, let's make a collective statement that will reflect the disagreement existing between us and all the problems and ways of resolving them.

Let's collectively ponder over these problems. Otherwise, I, as president, will disclaim all responsibility for what might happen, for the future development of events. The majority of the members of parliament will no doubt do the same, in which case reponsibility for the political situation will rest with you.

I apologize for having spoken so categorically but the seriousness of the situation has compelled me to do this.

I ask you once again to show restraint and not to leave the parliament. Let us try to resolve all problems in a constructive way and through dialogue.

We must condemn the tragic incident of 2 September. I have heard your evaluations and the many speeches. Yet, one thing suprises me: No one has said against whom this action was directed although, I think that it is not difficult to guess that it was directed, in the first place, against the president. Ignorance of this fact is giving rise to thousands of versions. Let's begin with fundamental truths. A delegation of U.S. congressmen arrived in Tbilisi and precisely at that moment, during my talks with the Americans, shots were heard on Rustaveli Prospect. It stands to reason that this was done with one aim in mind, namely, to wreck this meeting and wreck the negotiations. I believe this is absolutely obvious. The president was preparing to announce the arrival of a high-ranking delegation, more precisely, to welcome it, and this had to be thwarted. Is this really so difficult to understand? Can you not see that those who view a free Georgia with alarm had only this aim? I am not claiming that this idea came only from the provocateurs who organized this excess. The bitter truth is that there are forces both in the division [as published] and in the militia who are hostilely disposed toward us and the minister agrees with me on this. Unfortunately, it is no secret that when we came to power we inherited the rotting apparatus of the former government and a militia born of totalitarianism. Of course, the militia has undergone a serious evolution since 9 April [1989—when a peaceful pro-independence demonstration was brutally dispersed by Soviet troops resulting in some 20 civilian deaths] and the parliamentary elections. The majority of the militia workers are on our side. At the same time, it is clear to everyone that there are hostile forces operating in it that are controlled by the center. When people forget this, their assessment of this event [2 September] is inaccurate and is followed by accusations leveled against the Government. Could the Government have started shooting at itself? After all, this would have undermined its prestige! Is this so difficult to fathom? On that day, I, for example, was given very biased information. To tell the truth, when I appeared on TV that evening, I was not in possession of accurate information and, therefore, I could not give a proper assessment of what had happened. I now have the necessary information and although the investigation hasn't ended yet, we are in possession of the facts; you will receive them soon and it will become clear to everyone that this was a deliberate provocation both on the part of the militia and the demonstrators. I am sincerely convinced that one center and one author was behind all this. This is my view.

You can clearly see what consequences this has had. The "thugs", the representatives of the so-called opposition, are appearing on TV and making provocative statements, claiming that the authorities fired at their own people and alleging that parliament sanctioned the crime. Our "democrats" are bringing grist to the mill of those who contrived all this, the initiators and organizers of the provocation. This is where the truth lies. I have specially investigated the whole matter. Even if shots were fired into the air, this fact cannot be ignored: Firing during a rally is already a crime and a prerequisite for bloodshed. After all, there is every chance of a ricochet occurring off the walls of buildings in town. Incidentally, all the wounded were hit by ricochet bullets and 12 of them are militia. I believe that Mr. Vakhtang Razmadze [Georgian Prosecutor-General] will agree with me on this point. This was already elucidated in the course of the investigation and from the evidence of the wounded. Not one of them saw bullets being fired at the people. Everyone should remember this. However the firing had been planned and we must mete out the severest punishment to the criminals. At the same time, let us try to give an accurate appraisal of what happened and expose the forces that contrived all this. This is my opinion, friends!

Now regarding the fact that Georgia's image has been damaged. One musn't forget about the size and strength of the empire's disinformation machine that is struggling against the president. We are today consciously reaping all the fruits of disinformation and slander that began on 9 April 1989. This disinformation machine has also taken full advantage of the present provocation instigated by the center. There are objective political specialists, however, here, in Russia, and abroad. In information circles in the West, this incident is evaluated in different ways and the possibility of provocation directed against the president is not excluded.

Therefore, friends, the parliamentary commission that will undertake the investigation should, I believe, in the first instance, establish by what mechanism the incident was provoked and against whom the provocation was directed. Of course, competent people and the representatives of all parties should be involved in this. I do not want the so-called opposition to become a blind weapon in the hands of the enemy.

The situation today in Georgia, friends, reminds me very much of that of 1918-21. Then as well, Georgian traitors united into groups whose apparent aim was the victory of the revolution and the uprising; they organized similar provocations here and, in this way, laid the foundation for the introduction of the Army and the annexation of

Georgia. Today, our treacherous compatriots who have found shelter in Russia are preparing a second annexation. We should make our opposition aware of this and make them realize that they are being manipulated like dolls and puppets. I have devoted my entire life to the struggle for democracy and the struggle against the regime. When the supremacy of democratic law and the supremacy of the Government elected by the people is being ignored, however, this is no longer democracy but a putsch. To throw punches at one another and to hiss and slander one's opponents is not democracy but anarchy. Democracy is the supremacy of the law; this is what democracy is. We will not allow the young democracy of Georgia to be stifled.

Deputies Elected to Abkhaz Parliament

LD0110033191 Moscow TASS in English 1450 GMT 30 Sep 91

[By SAKINFORM correspondents Eduard Ediberidze and Tenghiz Dzhibuti]

[Text] Sukhumi September 30 TASS—Preliminary results of Sunday's elections to the parliament of the Abkhaz Autonomous Republic, which is part of Georgia, has become known. More than 230 candidates contended for 65 seats in parliament, to which 28 Abkhazians, 26 Georgians and 11 members of other nationalities were to be elected.

It must be recalled that many here believed that a legislative sealing of such a quota, which does not correspond to the percentage of members of various nationalities that live in Abkhazia, was a violation of democratic principles. At the call of a number of Georgian opposition organisations, a certain proportion of residents in this autonomous republic boycotted the polling.

During the polling, breaches of the electoral law were recorded: There turned out to be several ballot papers with one voter and some polling stations did not allow observers to be present and monitor the polling process.

According to the Central Electoral Commission, there was a high turnout of voters only in Tkvarcheli and Gudauta. There was no polling altogether in 12 out of 65 electoral districts. Preliminary data have it that 39 deputies have been elected. A run-off election will be held in 14 districts, since none of candidates polled more than a half of votes. The run-off is to be held in two weeks' time.

Armenia

Acting Trade Minister Denies Famine Threat

PM3009114191 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Sep 91 Union Edition p 2

[IZVESTIYA correspondent S. Bablumyan report: "Armenian Trade Ministry Gives Assurance: There Will Be No Famine"]

[Text] Yerevan—Razmik Daniyelyan, acting Armenian trade minister, has rejected rumors of a possible famine this winter.

He familiarized journalists with a set of contracts which the Armenian Trade Ministry has concluded with a number of the country's "food" departments, organizations, and enterprises. The intention is that by this winter the republic will have received enough butter, sugar, and meat products—above all from the Ukraine, Russia, and the Baltic republics.

Despite the optimism in the acting minister's statement, journalists, along with the republic's population, are inclined to take a far more realistic view of the threat of famine. Today the stores are only redeeming cigarette ration coupons—all the others have simply not been handed out owing to the absence of sugar, meat, and groats.

When stocking up with food for the winter, people are forced to avail themselves of the services of the market, but the pricing anarchy [bespredel] that prevails there limits the opportunities for a considerable proportion of the population to thus fulfill their own food program.

Presidential Candidate Reportedly Assaulted

OW3009141291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1010 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Paruyr Airikian, a candidate for presidential elections in Armenia, has said that on Saturday, when he was on his way to meet with his voters in the northern areas of Armenia, he and his canvassers were assaulted and threatened with arms. Airikian was nominated by the Union for National Self-Determination and by the Union of Christian Democrats.

The attackers demanded that P. Airikian stop his election campaign and give up his candidacy in favor of Levon Ter-Petrosyan, the current chairman of Armenia's parliament. It is asserted that during the assault two persons were seriously injured, the windows of 7 cars were broken, money, video cameras and video cassettes were stolen.

This disrupted the 1st phase of his election campaign: a two-day tour of population centers inhabited by more than 200,000 people, or 10

of voters.

According to Airikian, among the attackers he identified soldiers from the so-called "special regiment" under Armenia's interior ministry, that is crack troops from the Armenian national movement whose candidate for presidential elections is Levon Ter-Petrosyan.

Armenia's interior ministry has informed Airikian that it began investigations.

Energy Saving Measures Implemented

OW0110044591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2158 GMT 30 Sep 91

[From the "Soviet Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The republic of Armenia, in Transcaucasia, experiencing serious power shortages, has shifted to an energy saving regime this Monday. The supply of power to all consumers will be switched off under a schedule. The republican capital Yerevan has been divided into three areas that will be switched off in turn for six hours each.

Azerbaijan

Opposition Stages Rally; Demands New Government

OW0110022791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2030 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An IF [INTERFAX] correspondent reports that a rally was held in Baku today (September 30) at the call of the opposition. The organisers believe that several hundred thousand people took part in it. Tha rally demanded that the Parliament be immediately dissolved and a new government be formed for the transitional period which would have equal representation from all political forces in the republic and enjoy national confidence. In connection with the current tension on the Azerbaijan-Armenian border and in Nagorno-Karabakh, some of the speakers called for immediate general mobilisation and the creation of a national army to defend the borders of the republic.

The next rally is to start at 11:00 a.m. on October 2.

Mutalibov Authorizes Defense Council Formation

OW3009192191 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Sunday, President Ayaz Mutalibov of Azerbaijan issued a decree setting up an 8-member Defense Council that involves representatives of various parties and movements, including the Social Democratic Party, the National Independence Party, and the Popular Front.

A member of the council may not simultaneously hold any other posts.

The Defense Council is expected to draft a program of work and submit it to the Azerbaijani president for approval. The new body's exact range of authority is not quite clear from the presidential decree.

Further on Defense Council Decree

LD0110084591 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Azerbaijan President Ayaz Mutalibov issued a decree establishing a republic defense council composed of representatives of the official structures and opposition figures from the Azerbaijan People's Front and the Azerbaijani Social Democratic Party. The (?Turan Agency) notes that Mutalibov will probably also agree to the opposition's demands for parliament's dissolution. In his recent address to the nation, the president acknowledged that the criticisms of the republican parliament were just and he proposed modernization of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet election system so worthy people might be elected. The confrontation between the opposition and the authorities, which made the course of political events unpredictable, is gradually moving out of political crisis, the (?Turan Agency) notes.

Food Shortages, 'Tense' Situation in Nakhichevan

NC0110110391 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Air traffic between Nakhichevan and Baku is currently very heavy because flights are now the only link between Nakhichevan and Azerbaijan after movement on Azerbaijani railways in Armenia's Megrinskiy Rayon was halted. According to information provided by the Nakhichevan Supreme Soviet, it will be close to impossible to change the current situation soon. Two shepherds were killed in Ordubadskiy Rayon and a number of people taken hostage after the trains on the Megrinskiy Rayon railway tracks were fired on two weeks ago.

Talks on a hostage exchange have been to no avail. Talks on allowing the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic's law enforcement agencies to investigate the situation of Azerbaijani citizens who have been kidnapped in the neighboring republic have achieved no results either. It is believed that the Armenian side is not interested in providing security for train workers or in placing the tracks under Armenian control.

Talks are being held to normalize the situation. The situation in Nakhichevan, however, continues to be tense. Transportation vehicles, except for trolleybus services, are not operating. Automobile transportation links between the rayons in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic have been halted. Fuel is only provided for essential services and for distribution of bread to shops. Prices have increased in the kolkhoz [collective farm] markets due to the interruptions in supply. Foodstuffs are in short supply. In fact, the people who visit the tea houses between the buildings housing the autonomous republic's supreme soviet and the council of ministers, are served tea [words indistinct].

The prime minister of Nakhichevan has said: The only way to resolve this situation is to establish links with

neighboring Iran and Turkey. We have reached an agreement with the government organs in the Eastern Azerbaijan Province in Iran, which is in the southern sector of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic, to exchange our agricultural products and mineral water with fuel, [word indistinct], meat, and edible oils. Fuel has been acquired from Iran in return for peaches and grapes. This is not the way out of the republic's difficult situation, which has been caused by the the rail blockade.

Geydar Aliyev, chairman of the Nakhichevan Supreme Soviet, has appeared on local television to say that the situation is complex and to urge Azerbaijani leaders not to abondon the residents of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic. Aliyev said that the entire republic has to give significant and practical support to Nakhichevan in the transportation of basic foodstuffs and fuel. He also said that he believes it is possible to transport provisions and fuel by air.

'Information Blockade' Reported

LD3009213791 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1255 GMT 30 Sep 91

[By correspondent Viktor Shulman and AZERINFORM correspondent Mirza Askerov]

[Text] Nakhichevan, Azerbaijan, 30 Sep (TASS)—The Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan is now in "an information blockade"—Azerbaijani and Russian TV programs have not been received here for more than a week, broadcasting of programs on All-Union Radio has been cut off, and telephone links have been partially disrupted.

These events have taken place as a result of an armed attack against the Bichenek TV and radio retransmitting station, which is situated in the autonomous republic's Shakhbuzskiy Rayon. The station resembles a pile of metallic and concrete debris after being subjected to intense machine gun fire and shelling by grenade launchers and other types of weapons. It is difficult to discern any burned electronic equipment among the wreckage.

Specialists from the Nakhichevan TV and Radio Association think it will take a great deal of time and millions [currency not specified] in investment to rebuild the destroyed station and to reinstall the complex apparatus. But it is not easy to even start the rebuilding work due to the continuing blockade of the railway. The autonomous republic has found itself in such a situation because train traffic has been halted on the Megrinskiy section of Azerbaijani Railways going through Megrinskiy Rayon in Armenia.

Talks between the leadership of Nakhichevan and Armenia—with the mediation of deputies from the Russian Parliament—on lifting the blockade and setting compensation for material losses at the Bichenek station have still not produced any results. The neighboring regions have also failed to agree on restoring telephone links or broadcasting TV and radio programs to Nakhichevan via Gorisskiy Rayon in the neighboring republic.

The extraordinary session of the Supreme Majlis [soviet] of the autonomous republic also discussed the problem of the double blockade of the republic and ways to resolve the situation which has evolved here. Reports on the agreement reached with the leadership of Iran on transporting local inhabitants through Iranian territory into Nakhichevan and on talks with a delegation from the autonomous Kars [province] in Turkey—which is as interested as the inhabitants of this region in the speedy reopening of road and railway communication between the two countries—were met with understanding.

Cooperation Agreements Reached With Estonia

NC0110083891 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] As reported earlier, an Azerbaijani government delegation headed by Gasan Gasanov, chairman of the Azerbaijan Council of Ministers, visited Tallinn for a few days. An agreement was reached between the two governments on the cooperation in the trade, economic, scientific, technological, and cultural fields. Gasan Gasanov and Edgar Savisaar, chairman of the council of ministers of Estonia, signed the agreement.

The sides upheld the broadening of cultural relations and the improvement of cooperation in the scientific, technological, health, educational, and other fields between the two republics. Plans were made to hold talks on the future establishment of [word indistinct] relations.

The Gasanov delegation also held talks with Niyazi Gadzhiyev, chairman of the Ocak Cultural Society, an Azerbaijani society in Tallinn, and other Azerbaijanis who live in the Baltic republics. The possibility of establishing businesslike relations were discussed.

The delegation also reached an agreement with the Estonian side on the construction of a mosque in Tallinn in accordance with a request by the Azerbaijani community there.

Gasan Gasanov also held talks with Sweden's extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador to Estonia during which matters of mutual interest were discussed.

Publication of Joint Economic Magazine Approved

NC3009221291 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] In accordance with the proposal made by the Azerbaijan State Economic Planning Committee, the joint Azerbaijan-Turkey Korpu [Bridge] Establishment, the Azerbaijan State Committee for Material and Technical Supply, the Azerbaijan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Azerbaijan State Committee for Publications, the Azerbaijan Council of Ministers has approved the publication of an independent economic magazine by the joint Azerbaijan-Turkey Korpu Establishment.

The Azerbaijan State Economic Planning Committee, the Azerbaijan State Committee for Material and Technical Supply, and the Azerbaijan State Committee for Publications were given instructions regarding the publication of the magazine.

Daylight Savings Time Ends 29 Sep

NC0110090391 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] The Azerbaijan Council of Ministers has decided to turn the clocks back by one hour on 29 September 1991.

Meanwhile the council of ministers has instructed the Azerbaijan State Committee for Economic Affairs, State (?Committee for Standards), Meteorological Center, Ministry of Health, Power Generation Production Union, Academy of Sciences, Railway Administration, and Caspian Maritime Administration to submit reports to the Council of Ministers on the suitability of shifting to summer time every year.

Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast

Armenian Attacks on Shusha, Kirkidzhan Noted

NC3009204691 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Our correspondent Eyvaz Yusupov has reported from the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast that Shusha city and Kirkidzhan town were fired on from the direction of Stepanakert and other neighboring Armenian towns on the night of 25-26 September. The exchange of fire, which lasted until the morning, wounded six people and killed two others, Fizuli Ferhadov, a militia worker, and Ridvan Peynov, a resident of Kirkidzhan. Meanwhile, according to a report from Khodzhaly, two employees from the republic's office for vehicle inspections were [word indistinct] by the Armenian bandits while travelling from Agdam to Khodzhaly.

Kazakhstan

Visit to Turkey 'More Successful Than Expected'

OW3009193791 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On his way home from Turkey, President Nursultan Nazarbayev made a brief stopover in Baku on Sunday, telling journalists that his visit had been more successful than expected. He said he had signed with President Turgut Ozal a number of important documents, among them an agreement to establish regular air communications between Istanbul, Baku and Alma-Ata. Reliable telephone and television communication ties would be established between Turkey and Kazakhstan during the next 6 months.

According to Mr.Nazarbayev, a Turkish-Kazakh economic council was founded in Istanbul.

Japanese Delegation Visits, Discusses Aid

NC3009182991 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Uzbek 1730 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] A delegation of social representatives from Japan has visited Alma Ata, Kazakhstan's capital. The members of the delegation held talks with Kazakh officials and discussed the possibility of Japan giving Kazakhstan social and economic aid and the signing of friendship agreements between Japan and the Central Asian Republics. They also discussed the establishment of a joint Japan-Kazakhstan scientific, cultural, and [word indistinct] center. A number of documents were signed.

Tajikistan

Supreme Soviet Resumes 'Emergency Session'

State of Emergency Reviewed

LD3009121791 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] The Tajik legislature's emergency session, interrupted a week ago, resumes today to review the advisability of the furtherance of the state of emergency regime in Dushanbe, which was introduced by a decision of the deputies' body at the last session; and to determine the fate of the successor to the republic's Communist Party, which was transformed into the Socialist Party at an extraordinary congress of the Tajik communists, as well as a number of other issues. Meanwhile, the meeting in the square in front of the Supreme Soviet continues for the eighth day. Speaking there today, one of the leaders of Rastokhez [Islamic Party of Rebirth and the Democratic Party of Tajikistan] described as provocative rumors being spread to the effect that leaders of the unregistered Islamic Rebirth Party ordered 40,000 yashmaks [parandzhi] from Saudi Arabia.

Session Telecast Only in Tajik

OW3009134591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1010 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tajikistan's parliament convened for a session in Dushanbe on Monday [30 September]. The opposition announced its demands at the session. It called for cancelling the parliament's decision to impose a state of emergency, for suspending the activity of the Communist Party and for nationalizing its property.

95% of the MPs are communists. They insist on their previous decision: allow the Communist Party to act when it gets renamed.

The session is telecast only in Tajik. Russian speakers are virtually denied access to information on parliamentary debates.

Session Under Strong Pressure

LD3009130191 Moscow TASS in English 1112 GMT 30 Sep 91

[By TAJIKTA-TASS parliamentary correspondents Galina Gridneva and Andrey Lukin]

[Text] Dushanbe September 30 TASS—The parliament of Tajikistan today has resumed its special session that was suspended on September 23. The resumed session will have to work under strong pressure from a rally outside the parliament building as it considers the expediency of prolonging the state of emergency in the capital and the fate of the republic's Socialist Party (the former Communist Party of Tajikistan).

The leaders of the opposition refused to call for the suspension of the rally for the duration of the special session.

An agreement on the discussion in parliament of the lawfulness of the previous decision was reached during talks between official authorities and representatives of the opposition on Sunday.

"We are in favour of building an independent law-governed democratic state of Tajikistan," the leader of the Rastohez [Islamic Party of Rebirth and the Democratic Party of Tajikistan] movement, Takhir Abdudzhabbor, told TASS. The popular movement will support the nominee of the republic's bloc of democratic forces during the forthcoming presidential elections. Until then all conditions must be created for normal political competition using constitutional means. The state of emergency in Dushanbe should be lifted and a number of illegitimate decisions of the Tajik parliament cancelled, because they create unequal conditions for candidates during the election campaign, with all advantages in favour of communists and their legal successors in the socialist party.

The chairman of the unregistered Islamic Revival Party of Tajikistan Mukhammadsharif Khimmatov has this to say on the score:

"The Islamic Revival Party supports the policy of democratic transformations in the republic," he noted. "We favour the creation of an Islamic state in Tajikistan and believe that the transition of this kind can only occur through a free expression of the people's will. The republic is not yet ready for the move. The Islamic Party will not nominate its own candidate for presidency during the forthcoming elections, it will support the nominee of the democratic bloc."

Chairman of the organizing bureau of the Socialist Party of Tajikistan, the legal successor of the republic's Communist Party, Shodi Shabdolov refused to give an interview to TAJIKTA, as he was planning to set out his views at the session of the republic parliament.

State of Emergency Lifted

OW3009195591 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1630 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [30 September], the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan lifted the state of emergency in the republic. It will consider progress in the administration's talks with the opposition later today.

The parliamentary session was also expected to return power to the city executive committee in Dushanbe and adopt a resolution nationalizing the property of the Tajik Communist Party and its successor, the Socialist Party.

IF's [INTERFAX'S] correspondent reports MPs [deputies] may decide that the official candidate for the republic's presidency should conduct the election campaign as an independent person. This would mean R. Nabiyev would have to resign as head of the Tajik Supreme Soviet and join in the presidential race on a par with the alternative candidates.

Further Agenda Detailed

OW0110022491 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2030 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Tajikistan Supreme Soviet is to continue its work in Dushanbe on 1st October. On Monday deputies adopted a resolution lifting the state of emergency in the republican capital, one of the principal demands of an opposition-organised meeting, lasting several days.

On Tuesday MPs [deputies] will discuss the resolution on the activities of the Communist Party and its successor, the Socialist Party of Tajikistan, and the nationalisation of their property. Also on the agenda is the repealing of the law banning the Islamic Party and the exclusion from the law on freedom of conscience of the item banning the political activity of religious organisations.

Our correspondent reports that parliament heard a statement by a group of doctors from the Red Cross who were among the demonstrators in Dushanbe's central square. It declared that the health of the hunger strikers calling for the acceptance of the opposition's demands had deteriorated.

Clashes in Khodzent; Rallies Held Elsewhere

OW3009194991 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In Khodzhent (formerly Leninabad), members of the united opposition have clashed with supporters of the present Tajik government. As a result, a car was smashed but no one was hurt. Rallies in support of both the Communists and the opposition are reported to have been held in many cities.

Hunger Strikes Continue

OW3009215291 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1630 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The opposition-sponsored rally in Dushanbe has continued for the 10th day running. About 130 people are holding a hunger strike in the city's central square in protest against the state of emergency and urging a ban on the Communist Party (turned Socialist Party recently). The strikers include an 82-year-old man and 6 prominent Muslim leaders.

Opposition Supports Protesters

OW3009194391 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1600 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the Tajik opposition, the 150,000 rubles donated in assistance to participants in the protest rally in Dushanbe has been used to buy food and create minimal conveniences for the protesters, and to purchase copying and other equipment for an independent radio station.

The opposition denies that the money has been spent on the purchase of 40,000 yashmaks in Saudi Arabia, or that each rally participant receives a daily fee of 100 to 250 rubles.